

VALLEY Optimist MAGAZINE

FREE
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DECEMBER 28

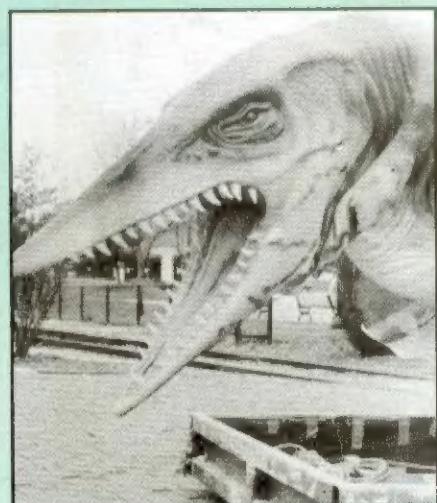
JANUARY 10



1994

9 THE YEAR THAT WAS

An Optimist's year in review! Take a look at the events that made 1994 a good year.



15 SEE MONSTERS

Holyoke's Children's Museum gives Valley residents a Jurassic Park-sized spectacle with *Sea Monsters: Dinosaurs of the Deep*.



22 RORY BLOCK

returns to promote her new album and play her inspiring brand of acoustic blues at the Iron Horse on Friday, December 30, at 7 and 10 p.m.

CALENDAR PICKS

■ THURSDAY DECEMBER 29

NRBQ tears down the house once again at the Iron Horse in Northampton with special guest the rockin' Ray Mason Band at 7 and 10 p.m.

■ FRIDAY DECEMBER 30

Stringbean brings its wiry, upbeat guitar pop to the Fire and Water Café in Northampton at 9 p.m.

■ SATURDAY DECEMBER 31

Art Steele Blues Band rings in the New Year at the Hotel Northampton from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

■ WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4

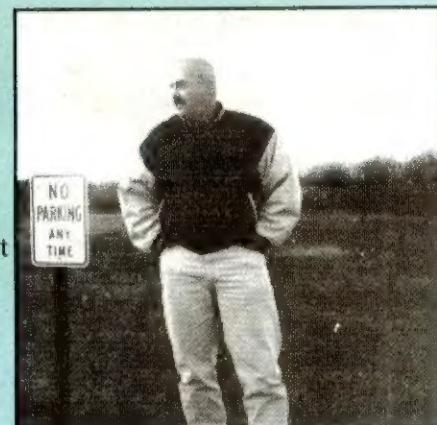
New Horizons warms up the winter nights with some sunny reggae music at the Northampton Brewery from 10 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

■ THURSDAY JANUARY 5

Cameron's Way, Dieselmeat, and Flycatcher make up a triple-bill of local, loud, and heavy punk/metal at Pearl Street in Northampton.

■ SATURDAY JANUARY 7

Blue Oyster Cult, one of the great dinosaur rock groups of the '70s, is "Burnin' for You" at Pearl Street.



16 ARTISTICALLY FIT

Local businessman Ken Morgan, owner and operator of the Amherst fitness center FLEX, takes time from working out to work on his abstract art.

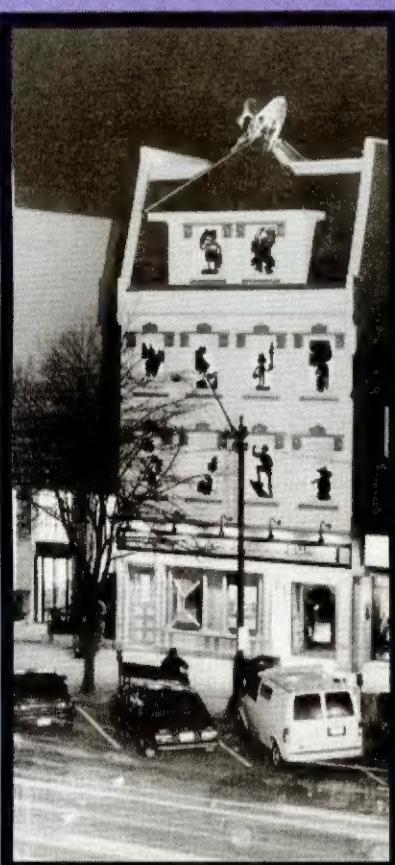
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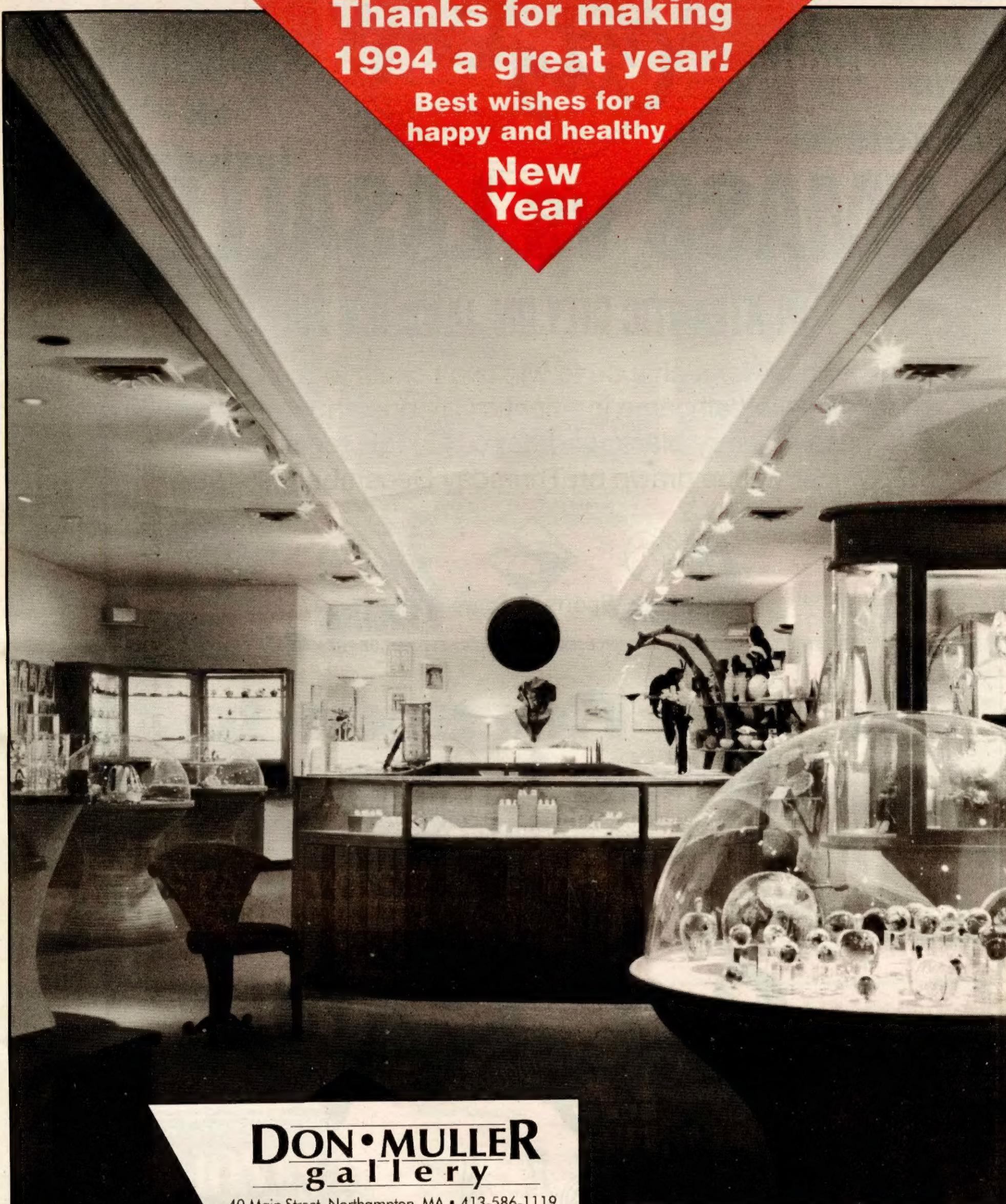
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grand reopening guide
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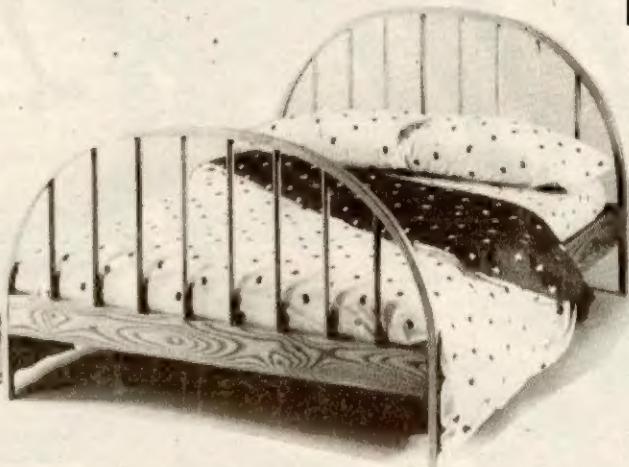
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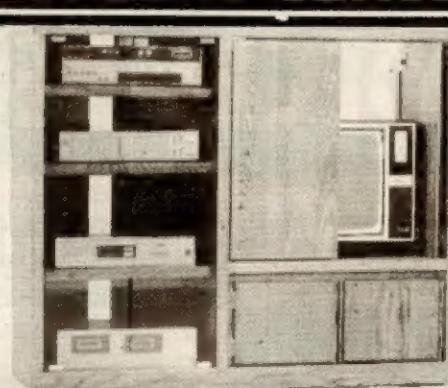
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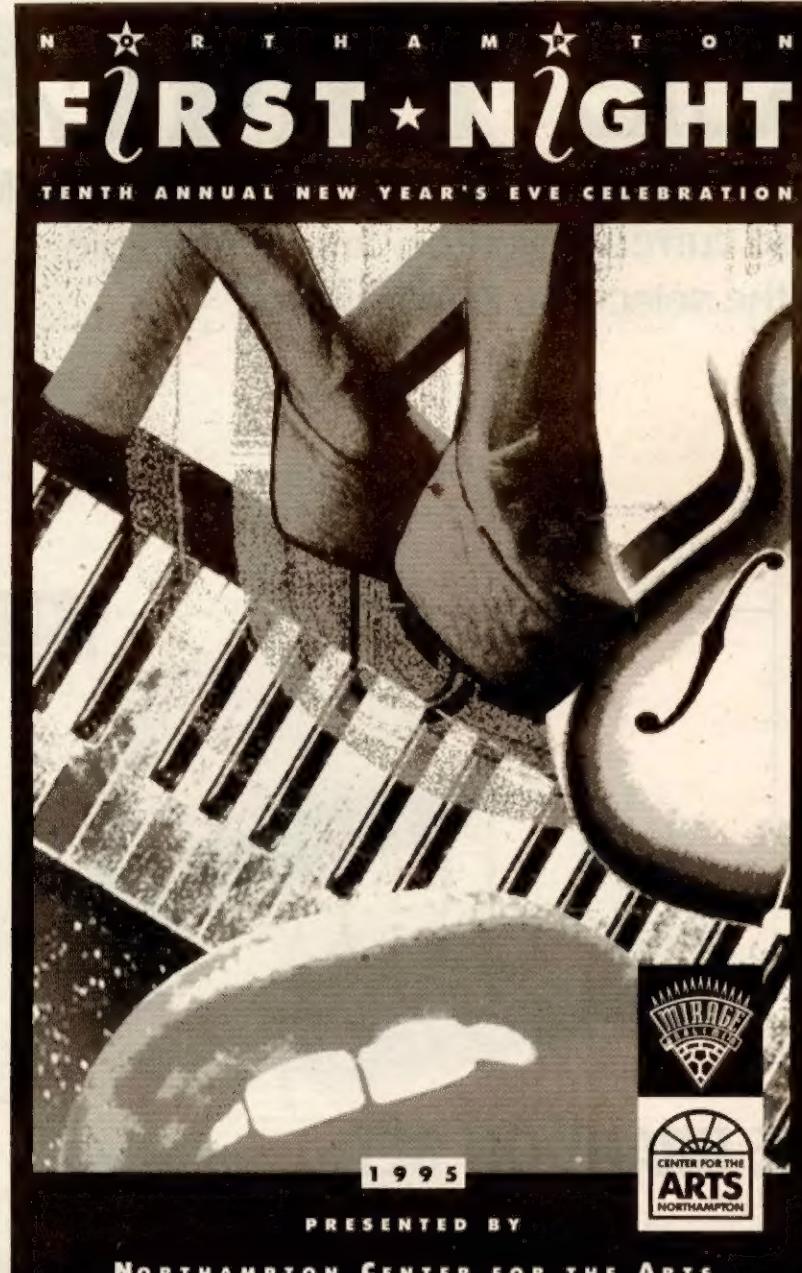
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The Year That Was

Sea Monsters

photo by Mark Rea

Artistically Fit

photo by Amber Davis

Processing courtesy of Primary Color Lab of Northampton.

On Our Cover

"Spring Street" by George McNeil. Acrylic on canvas. The piece is on display at Smith College Museum of Arts as part of their *Creative Collecting* Exhibit, a show of paintings and sculpture from the gift of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Small Jr. running through January 22

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1994

An Optimists' Year In Review

*F*or nearly three years now, we at *The Valley Optimist* have tried to look on the bright side of things. Without glossing over the hard facts or making light of serious issues, we have done our best to transcend the muckraking and the finger-pointing for which the press has come to be known — and despised. It's not always easy, particularly when we have to face painful reminders that all is not right with the world: ethnic cleansing, L.A. earthquakes, Rwandan refugees, Haitian unrest, and the O.J. Simpson case come to mind...

It would be easy enough to objectively chronicle our times without giving a thought to the greater implications on history. Or we could use our paper and ink to lambast the world's problems and the people who create them. But we have chosen a different tack, one that focuses on problem-solving rather than finger-pointing, on discussing complexities rather than oversimplifying; we explore solutions and encourage reader involvement in these solutions. Are there positive implications of the crisis in Bosnia? Not really, but there are many locals who, with little fanfare, are trying to effect a positive change. That's where articles on relief groups like Hadley's Friends of Bosnia come in. Can we do anything but cringe at the media-blitzed tragedy of the O.J. Simpson case? For us, it became an opportunity to have a frank discussion about the death penalty.

Keeping our focus local, we've found many positive stories to tell this year, bringing attention to amazing organizations such as the Hampshire County Jail Work Release Program, the River Valley Health Associates, People For Co-ops and Collectives, the AIDS Support Volunteers Program, and the Northampton Center for the Arts. We've celebrated local cultural extravaganzas, such as the Great Northampton Brewers' Festival, DIFFA's Art For Life series, the Amherst Book and Plough Festival, the Northampton Lesbian Festival, the Up Country Balloon Festival, the Arts Council's Four Sundays in February and UMass' Jazz in July, Amherst's Antiquarian Book Fair, the Loud Music Festival, plus our own 2nd anniversary party which raised \$5,000 for the Northampton Center for the Arts in February. And we have profiled scores of local artists, authors, and musicians — both known and unknown — such as Lesléa Newman, Tizzy, Suzanne Strempek Shea, Zeke Fiddler, Susan Freedman, Pat Smith, and Dar Williams. 1994 proved to be no exception to our rule: there's no shortage of positive news. Here are a few highlights...

INTERNATIONAL POSITIVE

Mission Impossible

Direct telephone links, two open-border crossings, an international air corridor and negotiations to end economic boycotts. Without a doubt, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's and Jordan's King Hussein's handshake that ended the 46-year state of war was the most inspirational event of the year. Even if the peace process has been a shaky one, few could deny the promise of a new age and the hopeful sound of the words "Peace in the Middle East."

South Africa, Free!

"People have voted for the party of their choice. This is a democracy... We have had a good fight, but now this is the time to heal, the time to build a new South Africa." These were Nelson Mandela's words in early May, in the wake of his nationally celebrated election to president of South Africa. Mandela represents the African National Congress, which received two-thirds of the votes in this first ever—and long overdue—democratic election in the country. The vote ended apartheid (meaning "apartness") in South Africa. Apartheid was enforced during many years of oppressive white rule that denied black South Africans basic human rights—including the right to vote, something we in America often take for granted.

Ireland At Rest?

At midnight on August 31, the Irish Republican Army began a truce—a historic event offering hope for a permanent end to Europe's longest ethnic war. The precedent-setting cease fire opened up more negotiation opportunities for the I.R.A., as well as inspiring two Protestant paramili-

tary organizations to halt their terrorist activities on October 13. Despite the great differences that still exist in their agendas, parties at both ends of Ireland's political spectrum have reason to celebrate the

held its first major event in Northampton in September—an Alternative Economics Fair—at which a variety of worker-owned and -operated organizations gathered to discuss their philosophies and practices with the general public and with one another.

Risa Silverman, co-founder of PCC, praised its success and said that PCC is currently working on a Directory of Co-ops and Collectives in the Valley for 1995, to be published by early spring.

W.E.B. DuBois Honored at UMass

The naming of the University of Massachusetts' library this past autumn after civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois—the first time a building on the campus has been named for a black scholar

—came as a bright signal that perhaps UMass is acknowledging diversity on a broader scope. DuBois, a Western

Massachusetts native, sought to destroy what he called the "color line" that divides races in people's minds. He

was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard, was instrumental in forming the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was active in bettering conditions for minorities. The W.E.B. DuBois Library

houses the greatest concentration of DuBois' work—over 150,000 manuscripts of his speeches and writing, as well as photographs and other related materials.

Cooley Dickinson Joins Alliance

The Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton agreed in November to form a health care system with six hospitals in New Hampshire. The health care alliance, to be called the United Community Health Care System, will have a capacity of over 1,400 inpatient beds, and will keep community health care its primary focus—each partner hospital will be governed by a local network of supervisors, including a board of trustees and president. The burgeoning system will allow more options to potential patients of each hospital, while continuing to build on the strong points of each of the community hospitals.

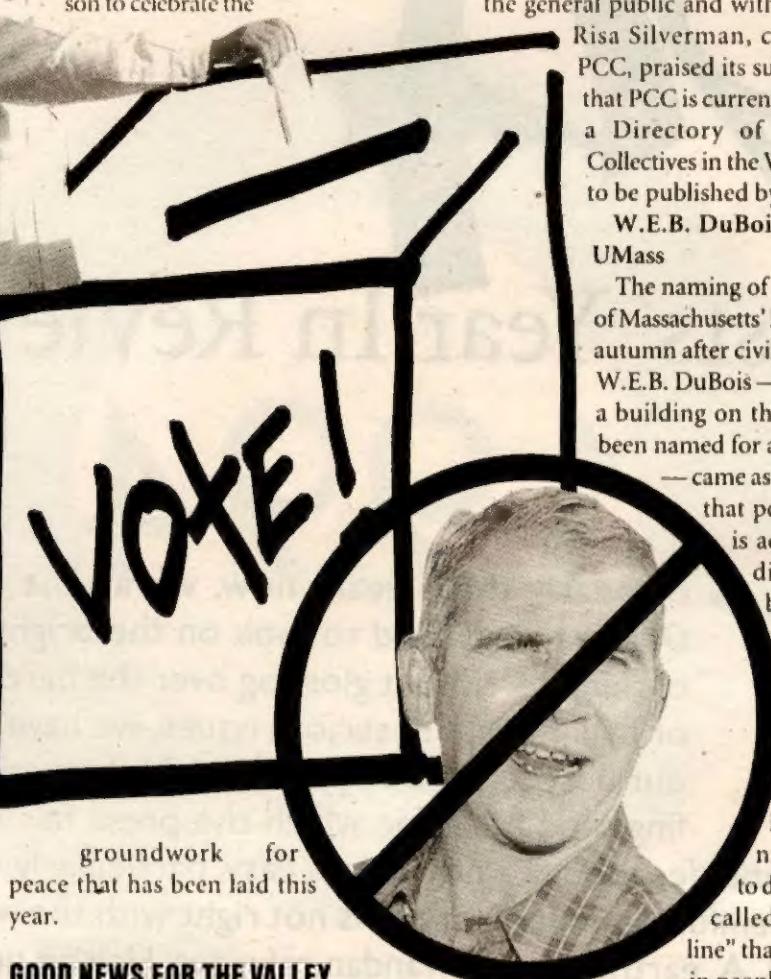
Grown-up Girl Scouts

The Western Massachusetts Girl Scout Council honored five local women as 1994 Women of Distinction. "Many women in business today are distinctive leaders," said Suzanne Smiley, Executive Director. It's important for today's girls to know these women and to understand the contributions their character, expertise, and attitudes make toward success."

Louise Corcoran is Assistant Vice President for Patient Administrative Services at Holyoke Hospital, teaches at Holyoke Community College, and is president of the Massachusetts Health Information Management Association.

Ruth E. Cruz is a health advocate for Nueva Esperanza, a school committee member in Holyoke, serves on the board of directors of Headstart, and works with Nuestras Raices, an organization that promotes community projects.

Sharon M. Moulton teaches in



groundwork for peace that has been laid this year.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE VALLEY

Sharing the wealth

This past year saw the formation of People for Co-ops and Collectives, a nonprofit group that is working to support and enlarge the network of cooperatively- and collectively-run organizations in the Valley. PCC

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Williamsburg, is active in her church, served on the board of directors of the Northampton Survival Center (which she helped found), and is treasurer of the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Martha Jeanne Nelson, owner of the lesbian and gay gift store Pride and Joy, has raised money for human rights and breast cancer research, is president of the Northampton Area Lesbian and Gay Business Guild, and supports the Pioneer Valley Lesbian Gay Bi Youth Project.

Sheila Weinberg, rabbi of Jewish Community of Amherst, works for equality for women in religion and leads interfaith efforts to fight anti-semitism. She is a peace activist and helps makes Judaism more accessible to all people through innovative liturgy.

Coull and His Gang

This year saw the Norwottuck Bike Trail, the link between Amherst and Northampton, getting an extensive amount of use from cyclists, parents with strollers, and other ambling members of the Pioneer Valley. To help keep the trail in shape, John Coull, owner of Amherst's Valley Bicycles Ltd., started his Chain Gang, a service-oriented group that combines his customers' appreciation of biking with volunteer work. Over the summer, the Chain Gang held bicycle safety clinics and picked up litter all along the trail, making it safer for all. Gang members also traveled to Brightside in Springfield, where they repaired twenty bicycles for Brightside members. This summer's success was just a warm-up, however. Coull has given the Chain Gang's members "a greater ownership of the whole process," he said. "It's now the members that own it as a club. They can generate the ideas. We're definitely going to keep the project going. There's no limit to what it can do."

Bike Squad

Also in the Two Wheel Department... There was a sleek new crimefighting force on the streets this year — bicyclists in uniform. Beginning in early July, six officers of the Northampton police force moved out of their cruisers and on to a more intimate means of pursuit. Moving swiftly through the back alleys, casual drug users and underage drinkers often didn't know what hit them. "There is a mystery to the approach," Officer Stephen Supurba noted of the surprise tact of a cop silently wheeling his way upon the unsuspecting. Besides catching many off guard, bicycles proved more effective than any police unit in such instances of outdoor assault, where an officer on his bike would be able to speed down a woodland path in seconds. Officer Daniel Block also praised the new approach as bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community. "The bicycles lend themselves to human interaction — they make the officers more approachable."

"Coke Is It"

The big decision has been made to allow The Coca-Cola Company to be *it* in the Valley. In October, the mega-multinational put down \$5.2 million for its new plant on Industrial Drive in Northampton. Coca-Cola reportedly plans to invest some \$41 million to enlarge the plant to a size of 400,000 square feet. More significant to the local community, however, is its commitment to hiring approximately 150 local employees and utilizing local subcontractors for its expansion. Production of Coca-Cola's new products, PowerAde and Fruitopia, is expected to begin there in the spring.

Tate and Wideman Hailed

University of Massachusetts English professors James Tate and John Edgar Wideman

both released new books which brought much-deserved attention to the works themselves, the careers of the men who produced them, and the university where they teach.

James Tate, professor of creative writing and contemporary poetry, won both the Pulitzer Prize and the William Carlos Williams Award for 1992's *Selected Poems*; in 1966 he won the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award for *The Lost Pilot*. He has long been a cornerstone of the Pioneer Valley writing community, infusing his classes and readings with a charmed spirit of wisdom through poetic absurdity. This year, he was awarded the National Book Award for *Worshipful Company of Fletchers*.

John Edgar Wideman is a two-time recipient of the PEN/Faulkner award, winner of the American Book Award for fiction in 1990, and a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" in 1993. Wideman is an incisive, daring, intellectually confrontational writer, as skilled in his use of voice as he is in pioneering compelling ideas. His book *Fatheralong: A Meditation on Fathers and Sons, Race and Society* was nominated for the 1994 National Book Award for nonfiction.

This year is the first in which two members of the same university department have been nominated for the National Book Award.

to a more retro-glamour look. Although this new silhouette still presents an idealized view of the woman's body, it is at least one of strength and power in femininity.

One Little Push

Although the Wonderbra won't be remembered for nourishing your soul, it will be filling this season's clingy fashions. Debuting in New York on May 9, the Wonderbra proved to be an instant success for cleavage everywhere. Some have said that the Wonderbra is a throwback to a more repressive era, but it also gives women an alternative to the hazards of breast implants. If women's views about their bodies can't be changed, at least steps can be made to keep them safe. In a time of plastic surgery, the Wonderbra may just help assuage some women's insecurities, while avoiding the harmful effects of silicon. So save the tissues for your nose and the socks for your feet, and use what you've got. The Wonderbra is all you, but with a little push.

FINAL GOOD THOUGHTS

Without being cynical, we'd also like to note one negative event that, thankfully, never came to fruition. Of course we're talking about Old Ollie North being kept out of elected office for another year. Maybe the Colonel will give up his political goals and take up fried chicken.

Also, a tip of the half full glass to the UMass Minutemen for making the year in local sports a whole lot funner... er, more fun; and to the local health officials who stood their ground and cleaned up our communal air by establishing smoking bans. Here's hoping local restaurants and bars aren't negatively affected. Why don't you make an extra trip to your favorite dining establishment just to let them know you support them? *

FASHION FRONT

Waif-er Thin

Nineteen ninety-four, to the relief of many, forced the "on the brink of starvation" waif model out of the mainstream. As feminists scolded the waif for contributing to eating disorders in young women, others wanted to see the real woman's body again. The queen of lean, Kate Moss, and her entourage of slouchy, pre-pubescent models, gave way

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When the full moon rises why does it look bigger when it's close to the horizon and smaller as it moves higher in the sky?

When reference points are available in the foreground, distant objects appear bigger. If you see the moon rising through the trees, the moon will appear immense, because your brain is unconsciously comparing the size of the object in the foreground (the tree limbs) with the moon in the background. When you see the moon up in the sky, it is set against tiny stars in the background.

answer from *Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise?* and other *Imponderables*. By David Feldman

If you have a question for A2Z, send it with your school photo, age, grade & teacher's name to: Ask A2Z c/o Valley Optimist 13 Old South St. Northampton, MA 01060

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Star Kvetch

Letter to the Editor

Dear Valley Optimist:

Usually I appreciate many of your articles, but I was compelled to respond to the lousy review "Degenerations" (November 30, 1994).

No, I'm not one of the typical Trekkies; I'm not even a sci-fi sycophant. I've seen

actions, while also making it clear that their personalities could be more than predictable clichés. I thought the entire cast did a supreme job of laughing at themselves, and drawing the audience into the fun of it.

It may be true that you have to be at least somewhat familiar with *Star Trek's* lingo

One thing Mr. Allard seems to have completely missed is the tongue-in-cheek humor.

two, maybe three, *Star Trek* movies. I don't own a television so I'm not your average American anything. But I was highly entertained (as were the rest of the entire SRO audience) on opening night at the Dead Mall by *Star Trek Generations*.

Obviously your reviewer Jeff Allard enjoys a good fight (praising Shatner's manly hero-type) and violence (the crash landing of the saucer seemed to turn him on). Maybe it's my lack of television exposure that has me looking for other dramatic factors. One thing Mr. Allard seems to have completely missed is the tongue-in-cheek humor. The script was full of characters making fun of their own idiosyncrasies. Data, of course, was quite blatant about it, but what about Shatner's dying words, "Oh my," and the opening scene with Scottie's wry remarks? I thought it was delightful that the actors could hold their parts with some integrity and still convey the absurdity of their situ-

and stars in order to appreciate this film. But isn't that why we keep on going to Shakespeare performances?

V. Vaughan

Amherst

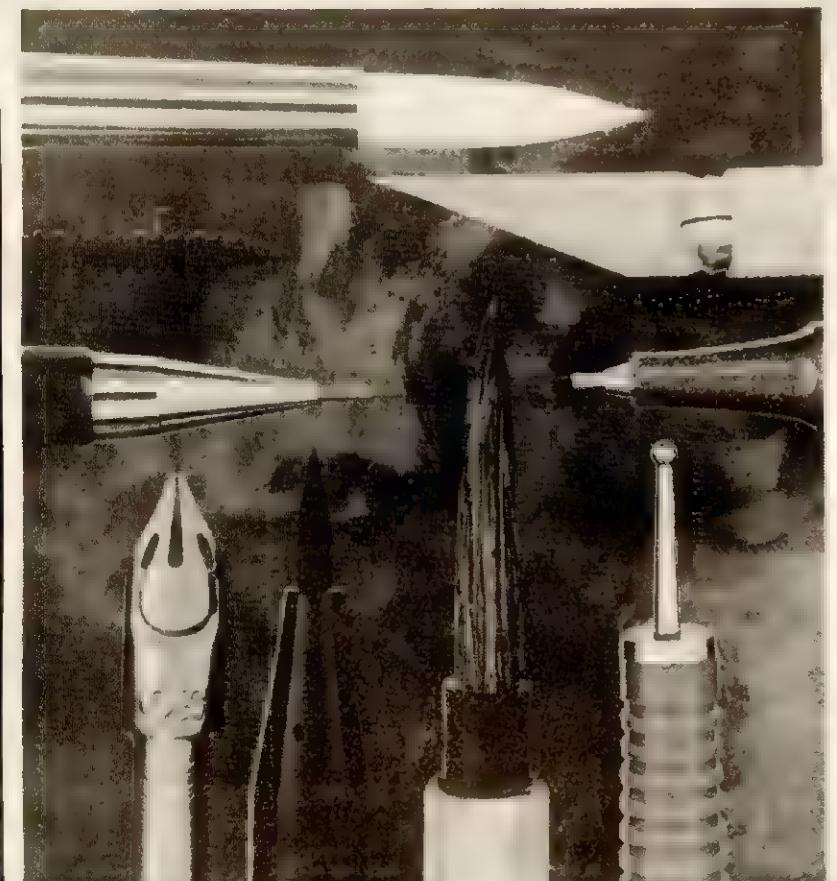
Jeff Allard Responds:

Star Trek's tongue-in-cheek humor has long been one of my favorite aspects of the series, so I didn't miss its presence in *Generations*. However, you did seem to miss the same humor in my review — not that I didn't seriously dislike the movie. In their greed to exploit the *Trek* franchise, Paramount has delivered a rush-job — a poorly conceived film far beneath the quality of *Next Generation's* best episodes. That this seems to be enough for many is what I find even more wrong than *Generations'* glaring faults.

And as for my thirst for violence, watching a model spaceship crash through a fake forest isn't exactly a disembowelment. It's simply a neat effect.



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Holyoke's Creature Feature

Prehistoric beasts return to the Children's Museum — this time with fins
by Jonathan Ratcliff

Behold the Giant Squid, with its tentacled death-grip! See the ferocious ancestor of the Great White Shark! Beware the fifty-foot-long Elasomer! Alive and larger than life, these are just a few of the prehistoric beasts who, after millions of years of extinction, will snap, flap, and roar at the Holyoke Children's Museum exhibit *Sea Monsters: Dinosaurs of the Deep*.

Living fossils? Not really. But thanks to the technical and creative wizardry of a national company and some local artists, the Children's Museum intends to wow spectators with a Jurassic Park right in their own backyard.

"We're hoping that *Sea Monsters* will do what last year's *Dinosaurs Alive!* exhibit did for us," Children's Museum Executive Director Patricia Byrne said. "It gave us a lot of exposure. We had over 60,000 visitors come to the dinosaur exhibit! People who had not been to the museum before had been drawn in by the exhibit, and found

the pun) a monstrous success worldwide — their creations have delighted thousands of spectators at over a hundred museums, theme parks, zoos, and aquariums from Denmark to the United States to Japan.

So how does the company breathe life into the hundreds of pounds of steel and foam rubber that their creatures are made of? The combined efforts of scientists, artists, sculptors, engineers, welders, mold makers, and computer technicians make the monstrous visions become reality. To be as scientifically accurate as possible, Dinamation refers to fossils and other existing knowledge about a specimen before coming up with conceptual sketches and, eventually, a full-size clay model. Meanwhile, engineers are creating the computer-directed, air piston-driven robotic skeleton that will set the creature in motion. A mold is made from the clay model, and a specially-developed liquid foam rubber is poured, creating a soft and flexible skin — complete with scales, folds and wrinkles — that twists and stretches with the movements of the creature. Finally airbrush artists give the beast a paint job. The finished result? A creature that looks as though it might walk, crawl, (or in this case, swim) away at any moment.

As impressive as the monsters are, they would not have quite the impact without a realistic environment for them to dwell in. For this, the Children's Museum sought out some local talent: the exhibit's surreal flickering water reflections, large undersea murals, and sculpted rocks are the work of professional Holyoke artists Robert

Mark Rea



"Just checking for cavities."

Clark and Richard Moss.

"We attempted to create an undersea adventure for the viewer brought about by the creative use of light, space, painting, and sculpture," Moss explained. "We wanted to create a vignette for each creature so they can be experienced individually."

Apart from entertaining its visitors and

"We attempted to create an undersea adventure for the viewer!"

bringing in much needed revenues that have a big role in sustaining the museum's operation, both the Children's Museum and Dinamation say the driving force behind the exhibit is education. Several interactive activities — a fossil dig, a creature crayon-rubbing station, information booths about the beasts, and more — are all part of the *Sea Monsters* exhibit.

"Despite the fun we are all having, every one of the exhibits and programs here at the museum has an educational base," Byrne said. "Last year 39,000 school children came from all over New England to the dinosaur exhibit. We expect an even better turnout for *Sea Monsters* — both student groups and other visitors. People come once and see the big shows, but we have afterschool programs for children in Holyoke, sum-

mer arts camps, and a lot more. The museum is a very vibrant environment, with an amazing staff. Exhibits like this allow us freedom in our program planning — we can reach so many more people."

The Children's Museum has really taken off in the past couple of years. The 5,000 square feet of space for the larger exhibits like *Sea Monsters* was recently granted to them by the mayor of Holyoke, something Byrne says the organization is very grateful for. And the museum recently learned

that they will receive a \$500,000 federal grant for a new health exhibit, to be housed in the museum's permanent exhibit space, where a wide variety of educational and entertaining children's activities has been featured for over ten years.

This comes as good news not only for the Children's Museum, but for Holyoke as well. "The children's museum is a key element in the revitalization of downtown," Byrne said. "We are something that lets Holyoke shine. We get people here, and they have the opportunity to see what a good city this can be."

The area community has shown that they care about the Children's Museum, not only through membership and attendance, but through business sponsorship that has provided cash and services that total over \$63,000 for the *Sea Monsters* exhibit alone.

"The museum really appreciates all of the support from the sponsors," Byrne said. "It shows that people in the position to help understand what we are trying to do here. But our visitors, both the adults and children, are the most important. They mean everything to us."★

Sea Monsters: Dinosaurs of the Deep opened at the Children's Museum in Holyoke on December 16, and will run until April 23 of 1995. Call (413) 536-KIDS for more information.

Mark Rea



"Here's looking at you, kid."

out about the other great things we offer."

The popularity of *Dinosaurs Alive!* came as no surprise, thanks to Dinamation, the California-based company responsible for bringing the phenomenally successful exhibit to the museum last winter, as well as this year's *Sea Monsters* show. Dinamation's creatures have been (pardon

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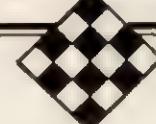
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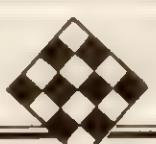
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Crossing Boundaries

Ken Morgan, owner of FLEX Fitness Center in Amherst, is pumped up about his work — as an abstract painter

by Erica Habert

Finding the common thread that runs through Ken Morgan's life is at first a daunting task. He pursues seemingly disparate avenues of work — he's both a businessman who owns and operates FLEX, a successful Amherst gym, and an abstract artist who finds himself absorbed by the tension between angles and curves.

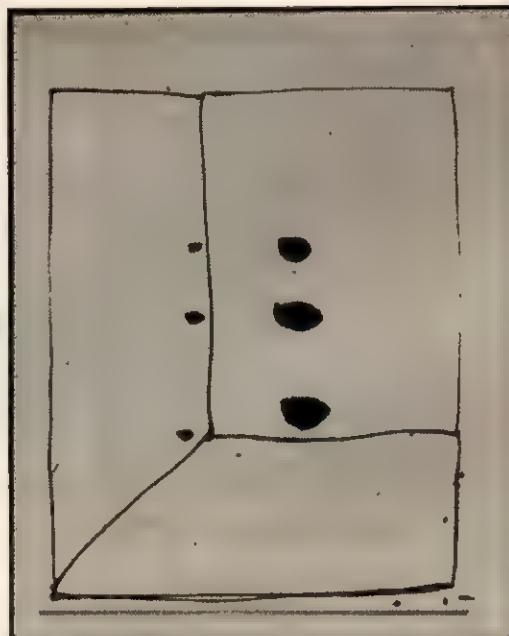
Once a dialogue is established, however, the mysterious connection between Morgan's life as a businessman and his pursuits as an artist becomes more apparent. In fact, it's a duality that might make perfect sense.

"If you're really committed to your art," he explains, "...you can't work for anybody else. They want forty hours from you, and when you get home, you're tired. That doesn't allow any time to do what you want to do."

Morgan actually did go the whole nine yards as a full-time artist for twenty years of his professional life. He held various visiting artist positions at San Diego State University and Ohio State University, and spent the majority of his time at the canvas and the drawing board. But the increasing difficulty in finding paid positions — as well as his becoming a father — changed his priorities. "I felt I had to get into something a little more substantial," he said. "Once I realized what my options were, [the gym] seemed to be something I was familiar with."

This familiarity with physical conditioning stems from a unique childhood experience that also centered on the general idea of physical activity... but with a twist. Along with his father, two brothers and sister, Morgan worked — and, essentially, worked out — as part of a traveling entertainment troupe. Called Al Morgan & His Toy Boys, the family juggled and unicycled their way through numerous state fairs, carnivals, nightclubs, and circuses. Training began for each child in the family at the ripe old age of six months.

Morgan says that once he went to high



"Three Me and My Shadow"

was, because to me it looked like nothing, which was what I liked. And I was just absorbed in the purity and strength of the color, forms, and shapes. That set my roots



towards the abstract."

Yet his art doesn't stray far from his beginnings as a performance artist. It is filled with what he calls an "entertainment sensibility," which manifests itself most noticeably in his use of bright, bold primary colors. He notes that the circus and carnival settings where he performed as a youth were filled with hues of red, yellow, and blue. The work that he displays and for which he is known is his painting and drawing, typically acrylic on canvas. But Morgan is beginning to experiment with different mediums. Sometimes he combines his painting and his drawing in an elaborate printmaking process, and soon he plans to venture into three-dimensional construction of some of his works from the past twenty years.

Whatever the form of his creative expression, Morgan treasures his freedom to stretch the boundaries of his art. Since a business, not art, is the foundation of his livelihood, this freedom is much more attainable — he is not dependent on a paycheck that comes from someone else's demands for what kind of art to produce. "Because I've never made it really big and I haven't created a look that fingerprints my identity,

I feel I have the authority to do anything I want," he says. Some of his recent work can be seen through February 2 at the Hartford Campus Art Gallery at the University of Connecticut at Hartford. His work is also being shown at the O.K. Harris Art Gallery in New York City's Soho District.

"I'm really looking forward to getting old and painting pictures," said Morgan. "[Since] I haven't put restrictions on myself and I don't allow anybody else to put restrictions on me, I can play all my life."

Speaking of play, FLEX gym, now in its fifth year, offers some 43 different exercise machines — including lifecycles, stairmasters, and Polaris equipment, along with free weights. Treadmills will likely be added soon too, Morgan says. He has coordinated an internship with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (which is responsible for providing him with James, his "right-hand

man"), and benefits from the gym's proximity to the University campus. But a walk through FLEX is not a walk through a UMass facility. There's a mix of folks building muscle and burning calories, from the student to the 9-to-5 variety, female and male, newcomers and experienced body builders.

Morgan's business is a solid foundation to support his work as an artist. Yet in the context of Morgan's life,

there is a critical distinction to be made between the two endeavors. "The gym is for the moment," he says, "but my art is forever."★

FLEX Fitness Center, located at 175 University Drive in Amherst, is open Monday through Thursday, 6 am — 10 pm; Friday, 6 am — 9 pm; Saturday, 9 am — 5 pm; and Sunday, 10 am — 3 pm. Call (413) 253-3539 for membership or other information. For information about Morgan's show at the Hartford Campus Art Gallery, call the University of Connecticut at Hartford main operator at (203) 241-4700 and ask for Dr. Alfred Martinez, Art Gallery Director.

MAKE A DATE

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

The Massachusetts Institute of Management Education, Inc.: ISO-9000 program in conjunction with SPACE and Employers Association. A twenty-three-step implementation planning workshop. The training teams will develop project plans for their committees. Participants will spend twenty hours learning twenty ISO-9000 requirements. The program will run January 16 — 19 from 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee. For more information call 589-7844.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

The Massachusetts Institute of Management, Inc.: Unemployment Compensation Issues. The workshop will explain the states laws and programs dealing with unemployment compensation. The program will relate how the law impacts the employer and how to handle employee-related incidents. The claims process, appeals process, costs involved, and hearings will be among the topics discussed. Speakers will include State Commissioner Nils Nordberg and the president of Unemployment Tax Control Associates, Inc., Suzanne Murphy. The program will be held from 9 a.m. — noon in the Parwick Center at the Comfort Inn in Chicopee. Call 589-7844 for more information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

The Massachusetts Small Business Center and the British Standards Institution: UMass/BSI ISO 9000 Initiative — A World-Class Program for Local Small Businesses. A program offering local businesses committed to cultivating an ISO-compliant quality management system a combination of intensive training and support from BSI trainers, as well as UMass faculty and students. This training team is distinguished by the BSI's preeminence as an ISO registrar, and by the UMass faculty's world-wide distinction in the fields of engineering and quality management. The program will run from May to September, 1995. Early registration is required due to the intensity and selectivity of this program. Pre-registration is due by January 31, 1995. Enrollment is limited to the first eight companies. For more information, call 545-6307.

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school, his grounding in the performing arts shifted to an interest in the fine arts. He recalled the first time he felt this attraction: "I opened up a book and saw my first abstract painting — and it hit me like a lightning bolt. I didn't question what it

COMMERCIAL PULSE

Young Entrepreneur Now Chairman of the Board

Jason LeClair, 23, saw potential for an idea, and rolled with it.

In 1989, he was a high school senior working at a bike shop. LeClair had encouraged the shop to diversify from bike equipment into skateboards. He soon saw his special interest grow from an idea to its own department in the bike store. He was taught to manage the skateboard end of the shop — everything from ordering items to sales.

When the store went out of business, LeClair thought it was time the area had a skateboard store of its own. "There was a lack of a store just for skateboarding equipment. You basically could only get it from mail-order [catalogs], or bike shops. Having a store just for skateboarding stuff creates an atmosphere for skaters," LeClair said.

With the help of the Small Business Association, who aided him in securing a bank loan, LeClair soon started A Hole in the Wall in Sturbridge, which closed after a couple years due to lack of business.

LeClair moved his business to Northampton, where it has been known for almost three years as The Board Room. The Board Room, which also sells snowboards and related paraphernalia, now has three employees. It's still a community for skaters in the area.

"It's still the same now, we have a TV room for kids. It's become a hang-out, meeting place for skaters in the area—with skateboarding illegal in town, there's not much else for them to do. This is a second home for them," LeClair said.

It's not all hard work for LeClair, though. "I've always been interested in skateboarding and snowboarding—it's why I got into the business. I wanted to be close to my hobby. I work to support the habit."

RAPID PULSE

IN NORTHAMPTON

The Northampton Center for the Arts, in conjunction with several area businesses, is sponsoring First Night on December 31. This New Year's Eve festivities mark the tenth anniversary of the First Night celebration and the Center for the Arts. There will be over sixty music, dance, comedy, theatre, and storytelling performances to choose from. A "ball raising" at midnight above the Hotel Northampton will occur as it did last year, as will the "ice bar" created by decorating Pulaski Park with ice sculptures and neon lights. Also returning is First Night's non-alcoholic policy, and a pledge to offer rides home to those festival-goers who request them. Hot chocolate and coffee will be available to everyone. The Words and Pictures Museum will be holding its Grand Opening simultaneously with First Night celebrations. Admission will be free to those with a First Night admittance button. For more information on tickets or events, call 584-7327 or 586-7282.

•Options, the environmentally responsible products store, has moved from its Strong Avenue location to 112 Main Street. Call 584-0010 for more information.

IN HOLYOKE

The Volleyball Hall of Fame will begin its year-long schedule of events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of volleyball on January 28. The Volley "Ball" dance will be held at the city hall ballroom. For more information, call 536-0926.

IN SPRINGFIELD

The sales team of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company recently won a national award. Sales & Marketing Management Magazine and the Gallup Organization named Northwestern Mutual Life's sales force the best in the nation, according to a survey they conducted. The main criteria the team was based on were: accuracy, availability, responsiveness, credibility, quality of training, recruiting top salespeople, maintaining accounts, and building partnerships. Northwestern Mutual has \$47 billion in assets and 7200 agents nationwide.

•Stockholders have approved a plan to consolidate the Farm Credit Bank of Springfield, the Springfield Bank for Cooperatives, and CoBank. The united banks will form an Agricultural Credit Bank called CoBank ACB. The consolidation is the first in the 77-year history of the Farm Credit System. Currently, CoBank offers credit services to agricultural cooperatives, rural utility systems, and other rural businesses throughout the country. The consolidated bank will open on January 1.

IN SOUTH HADLEY

Office space is shifting and expanding at The Village Commons. The Commons has added a new tenant: Liberty Mutual Insurance. Old resident Mona's Lace Place has expanded in order to make room for a more extensive line of bridal accessories, and to add infant gifts and antiques to its inventory. Neuchatel Chocolates has moved to a bigger space, and is now carrying a larger line of Swiss chocolates.

IN CHICOPEE

Fairfield Mall recently welcomed three new businesses. Nail Studio, owned by Tony Lee, provides pedicure and manicure services. Valinho Travel is a full-service travel agency operated by Eduarda Valinho. Cote's Café Gourmet Coffee, is owned by Larry Cote, and serves baked goods, soups, and sandwiches.

— Alice Hicks

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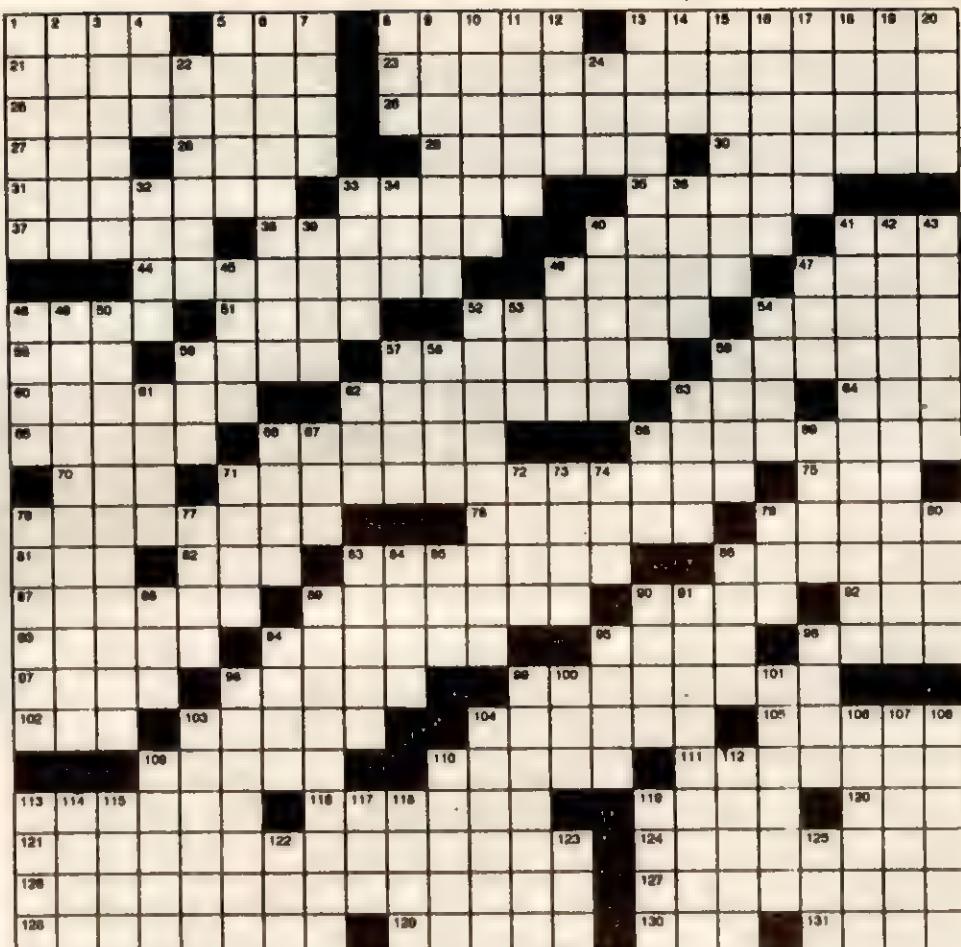
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180 Uncanny: var.
183 Racehorse Ridge, *et al.*
184 Norse deity
185 Ginza change
186 "— plenty o' nuttin'"
188 Former U.S. secret agency: abbr.
189 Endure
190 Bric-a—
191 Uninformed
194 Wood strip
195 Soprano notes
196 With 125 Down, Russian waterway
198 Hit
199 Welsh city
200 Down —
201 Preserve
203 Throne sojourns
204 Medium's medium
206 Lay in new fuel
207 Dose
208 African pest
209 Pang
210 Scrimp
212 Year in Henry VII's reign
213 Gumbo: var.
214 Sumac genus
215 Review negatively abbr.
216 Press or *score*: abbr.
218 Scottish explorer and family
219 Basics
222 Meet the bet
223 Clucking sound
225 See 96 Down



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'94 - '95

Northampton

Schedule of Performances

Academy of Music

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. The Enchanted Circle Theatre.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. The Inner City Liberation Chorus.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Michael Wald's Magic.
 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Bamidele Drummers.
 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. The Young at Heart Chorus.
 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Judy Polan.
 10:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. The Michael Gregory Band.

Center for the Arts

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. The Young at Heart Chorus.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Notable Performances Children's Theatre.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Su Eaton.
 7 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. The Don Bastarache Big Band.
 9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Loose Caboose.

Coolidge/Fitzwilly Building

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Northeast American Dance Company.
 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. The McNixons.
 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Angry Johnny and the Killbillies.
 10:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Check, Please!

Edwards Church

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Roger Tincknell, folksinger.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Mary Jo Maichak, minstrel.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. The Gutterbirds.
 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Andy Jaffe and Tom McClung Quartet.
 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Marion Groves and the Andy Jaffe Trio.
 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Scott Gilman and the Andy Jaffe Quartet.
 10:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Marion Groves and the Andy Jaffe Trio.

First Church Lyman Hall

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Hoopee the Clown.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. David Bates, storyteller.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Rob King, storyteller.
 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Big Waaagh Scratch Band.
 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Andrea Ayvasian, Count Dorsey, and Annie Hassett.
 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. The Big Waaagh Scratch Band.
 10:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Andrea Ayvasian, Count Dorsey, and Annie Hassett.

First Church Sanctuary

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Gideon Freudmann, cello-bop.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. The Eastman/Henry/DeVito Trio.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Salamander Crossing.
 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Schtick and Stones.
 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Leo T. Baldwin.
 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Izzy Gesell.
 10:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Sleeveless Theatre.

Historic Northampton

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Yar the Genie.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Morgan Simone DaLeo, storydancing.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Waffles the Clown.

St. John's

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Bamidele Drummers.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Schtick and Stones.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Paul Richmond, juggling.
 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Roger Saloom and the Stragglers.
 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Craig Eastman.



Sleeveless Theatre

9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. The Amy Fairchild Band.

St. Mary's Parish Auditorium

2 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. First Night Children's Talent Show.

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Higher Help.

8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Blue Streak.

9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Oye/Danse Afrique.

Unitarian Society (Great Hall)

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. John Porcino, storyteller.
 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Sarah Pirtle, folksinger.
 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Jonathan Keezing, guitar/puppeteer/stories.
 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Art Steele Blues Band.
 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. David Marshall Jackson Choir.
 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. The Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus.
 10:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Erica Wheeler.
 Words and Pictures Museum
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Performances are subject to change without notice. For latest information, please call the Center for the Arts at 584-7327.

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**TEN COOL MUSICAL THINGS OF 1994
(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)**

The Wedding Present — *Watusi* (Island): Timeless pop from four guys from Leeds, England. From the late-'60s shimmie of "It's a Gas" to the Stereolab-like hypnotism of "Click Click," The Wedding Present make you wow and flutter. Gedge screaming "I'm just kidding myself" on "So Long, Baby" is one of the best moments of the year.

Jawbox — *For Your Own Special Sweetheart* (Atlantic): More jagged than a chainsaw, more powerful than a locomotive, Jawbox twist and bend their guitars around melodies until they threaten to break. They don't, but it's a delicious mess anyway, featuring "Savory," one of the best tortured pop songs that nobody heard.

Elvis Costello — *Brutal Youth* (Warner Bros.): Elvis is still king, and he proved it with this "comeback" album of 15 tunes that were played with so much energy and wit that you'd think it was 1978. Not a wasted moment. One of Mr. MacManus's best ever.

Stereolab — *Mars Audiac Quintet* (Elektra): Like watching the rolling of the ocean or driving on an endless highway, Stereolab makes mesmerizing music that lulls listeners into a dream state that never ends. And when it does, like the abrupt gasp at the conclusion of "Ping Pong," you don't want it to. Check out last year's *Transient Random-Noise Bursts With Announcements* as well.

Fastbacks — *Answer the Phone, Dummy* (Sub Pop): This buzz pop trio chose their name carefully, as they play two and three minute pop songs as though their lives depended on it. The disc has more catchy riffs than most bands can come up with in a lifetime. Perfect for air guitar.

Frank Black — *Teenager of the Year* (Elektra): The unstoppable Charles

Thompson continues his quiet takeover of the world as we know it with this sprawling, twenty-two-song avalanche of odd outlooks and melodic invention. The Pixies are dead and The Breeders are popular, but Frank Black's having fun, and he's still the one.

Guided By Voices — *Bee Thousand* (Seat): First came the critical uproar, then came the critical backlash, but Robert Pollard and his crew sail on regardless. From the angelic bliss of "Tractor Rape Chain" to the Byrds-like "Queen of Cans and Jars," GBV write perfect pop songs as effortlessly as someone waving "hello."

The Mommyheads — *Flying Suit* (Dromedary): They sing of balloons, helium balls, and clouds, and their music is genuinely dreamy and otherworldly. "Sandman" is a perfect three minutes, all anyone can ask for. They sound like no one else, thanks to the unique vision of lead vocalist/guitarist Adam Cohen. Ask for *Coming Into Beauty* at your local store, too.

Ray Mason — *Between Blue and Okay* (Bullet): Rock and roll has no friend greater than he — Ray Mason holds the pop songwriting torch high and proud, with more catchy, indelible tunes than anyone has a right to have written. His live shows continue to amaze and motivate. See him now at a club near you.

The Kinks — *Are the Village Green Preservation Society* (Reprise): Yes, this came out twenty-five years ago, but excellent music knows no boundaries, and — up until this summer — I had never heard this disc. If you haven't, buy it now, and wonder what happened to these boys while you sing "Do You Remember Walter?"

Furthermore: Pavement — *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain* (Matador); Sebadoh — *Bakesale* (Sub Pop); Liz Phair — *whip-smart* (Matador); Elastica — *Stutter 7* (Sub Pop); Blur — *Parklife* (SBK/ERG); Versus — *The Stars Are Insane* (TeenBeat).

Ken Maiuri

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Sponsored By Main Street Records

1. Various Artists — *Homegrown Harvest* (Signature Sounds)
2. Various Artists — *Hotel Massachusetts* (Chunk)
3. Steve Westfield/Scud Mountain Boys — *Split 7"* (Chunk)
4. New Radiant Storm King — *Rocket Scientist 7"* (Chunk)
5. Lumber — *Wax and Fire 7"* (Chunk)

1. Greg Brown — *Dream Café* (Red House)
2. Maddy Prior — *Year* (Park Records)
3. Katell Keineg — *O Seasons, O Castles* (Elektra)
4. Carey Bell — *Heartaches and Pain* (Delmark)
5. Various Artists — *Duende* (Ellipsis)

1. Beatles — *Live At the BBC* (Capitol)
2. Pearl Jam — *Vitalogy* (Epic)
3. Jimmy Page/Robert Plant — *No Quarter* (Atlantic)
4. Bob Dylan — *Hits Volume III* (Columbia)
5. Dick Dale — *Best of Dick Dale* (Rhino)

1. Ben Sidran — *Life's a Lesson* (Go Jazz)
2. Max Roach — *M'Boom* (Columbia)
3. Frank Sinatra — *Duets II* (Capitol)
4. Tony Bennett — *Steppin' Out* (Columbia)
5. Mose Allison — *The Earth Wants You* (Blue Note)

1. Benedictine Monks of Santa Domingo — *Chant* (Angel)
2. Music of Hildegard von Bingen — *Vision* (Angel)
3. Dawn Upshaw — *I Wish It So* (Elektra/Nonesuch)
4. Cecilia Bartoli — *Italian Songs* (London)
5. Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo — *Chant Noel* (Angel)

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It Happened One Year

In 1994, the nation opened its doors for some fresh air and got a hurricane

by Ken Maiuri

There's no way around it: Kurt Cobain passed away this year. Though the media coverage of his death ended quickly, with nightly news reporters grasping at such straw-like terms as "Generation X" and "grunge" to describe the event's importance, the effects of Cobain's suicide are still felt every day by those who listened to his music. Beyond the emotional aftermath, however, is something else Cobain left behind — the fact that his band changed the course of popular music as we know it. Nirvana may have been labelled "grunge," but Cobain's songwriting was more universal than that hyped term. He wrote pop songs. Twisted, painful, confused pop songs, but filled with distorted hooks nonetheless. And when *Nevermind* came out in 1991, America's Top 40 would never be the same.

So if that year was *The Year Punk Broke* (as the title of a Sonic Youth tour film announced), then 1994 was the year it got fixed. Green Day, a trio of snotty kids in their early 20s from Berkeley, California, took four chords and an attitude and took over the country; they also appeared on more magazine covers than Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley. Add to that groups such as The Offspring, Rancid, and Bad Religion getting extensive exposure, and all that was left was for the Ramones to come back and show everyone who was boss.

In general it was the year that the nerd in the back of the class got voted Most Likely To Succeed. From Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins to Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails to Beck, 1994 gave the world The Outcast as Rock Star. As such, "alternative music" was either finally given its due or irreparably destroyed, depending on one's point of view. The Breeders, Meat Puppets, and Mazzy Star went from being critical favorites to MTV staples. And while it was nothing short of breathtaking to hear Kim and Kelley Deal surge through Guided By Voices' "Shocker In Gloomtown," a curious undertow was felt when bands such as Veruca Salt and Weezer appeared out of nowhere to immediate Buzz Bin success. Alternative music was above ground and everywhere, thereby becoming its own predictable genre — at least as far as the mainstream was concerned.

Indie labels thankfully staked out their own territory in 1994, as always. Jenny

Toomey and Kristin Thomson's unstoppable Simple Machines label released a glorious two-CD collection of last year's Working Holiday 7-inches and the live music celebration that took place in early '94, featuring sparkling performances from indie faves Eggs, Superchunk, and Tsunami, among others. Slumberland also released a terrific compilation, *Why Popstars Can't*

explode in front of a claustrophobic crowd, and The Mommyheads came all the way from California to play a tragically truncated but still memorable set. And we mustn't forget to mention such excellent local bands as Pirate Jenny, Tizzy, the Ray Mason Band, Miss Reed, and the Scud Mountain Boys, who all deserve more exposure than just to handfuls of stationary audience members with crossed arms.

"Alternative" was surely the most overused word in the English language in 1994, but other music continued to prosper just outside the lime-light. Country music superstar Reba McEntire was so popular she appeared on bags of Fritos. Sheryl Crow had the most successful song of the year ("All I Wanna Do"), even though

(Crosby, Stills, and Nash vs. Nine Inch Nails), but the mud was more important anyway. Speaking of mud, many once-legendary bands stopped slinging it to get back together for reunion tours and new albums. Traffic, the Eagles, and Jimmy Page and Robert Plant (where was John Paul Jones?) made lucrative returns in every sense of the word. Even the Go-Go's got back together for an appearance on *Letterman* and a greatest hits disc. After a hiatus, The Rolling Stones got moving again, turning VH-1 into their own personal network for a week, and filling up stadiums around the world. And just to prove that marketing and hype is everything, Tony Bennett became the most hip man in America for a few weeks. Though a timeless performer to be sure, one doubts that high school kids in flannel and boots were really rushing to buy his MTV *Unplugged* disc, whether J Mascis performed with him or not.

No matter what was popular in 1994, the most positive aspect of the entire "alternative revolution" was that good bands and performers got more exposure than ever. On *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* alone, there were performances from Sebadoh, the Dambuilders, Freedy Johnston, Possum Dixon, Jawbox, and Shonen Knife — all highly original bands that don't exactly scream "network television." And the most surreal experience in the world (besides Megadeth's appearance on the *Letterman* show, of course) had to be watching Steven Malkmus and Pavement crow and cackle their way through "Cut Your Hair" on *The Tonight Show*. Exposing the country to a ramshackle quintet of subversive rockers probably wasn't what Jay Leno had in mind.

Then again, from Mal Thursday's Bay State compilation *Hotel Massachusetts* to WRSI's benefit disc *Homegrown Harvest*, from the Loud Music Festival to Lollapalooza, the name of the game is exposure: getting music out there for people to hear. It's the legacy that Kurt Cobain left to the world in 1994 — although he was startled and confused by his own success, he tried to use it to give his musical heroes some respect and an audience, to make the world hear something out of the ordinary. He succeeded.★



The dark side of '94 — Fans still feel the impact of Cobain's suicide.

Dance, chock-full of hard-to-find tracks by groups such as Stereolab, Lorelei, and Rocketship. And Mark Robinson's TeenBeat label joined the box set craze (sort of) by releasing volume one of a four-CD set to

it came out over a year and a half ago. With a long-form video (à la Michael Jackson's "Thriller") and appearances on *Arsenio* and *Saturday Night Live*, Snoop Doggy Dogg was in the house, with non-gangsta rappers Coolio and Salt 'n' Pepa hanging just outside on the steps. Melissa Etheridge's "Come To My Window" was on every radio and television station continuously. And just when everyone thought it was safe to put the Flock of Seagulls records up in the attic, someone decided it was time to bring back synthesizers and angular hair. Rhino released volumes 1 – 10 of their *New Wave Hits of the '80s* compilation (which will now continue with five more discs in the new year — is there really that much worth remembering?), proving that Taco's "Puttin' On the Ritz" is just as nonessential now as it was back in 1983.

In continuing with reliving the past, Woodstock II took place in Saugerties, New York, twenty years after the original Aquarian Festival of Peace and Love. The music may have been a tad dissimilar



How famous is famous? When was the last time you had your mug printed on a million bags of Fritos?

commemorate the label's past, present, and future. The Wakefield roster reads like a who's who of little label pop, including the wacky Blast Off Country Style!, the wailing Tuscadero, and Versus, a band destined to take the universe by storm.

Those three bands were the highlights of the TeenBeat Circus Tour that stopped by Northampton's Bay State Cabaret; it was just one of many excellent concerts at the cozy venue. The Dambuilders blew out the walls and everybody's eardrums, The Figgs

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2. Sam Phillips
"Martinis and Bikinis"
3. Sheryl Crow
"Tuesday Night Music Club"
4. The Mavericks
"What a Crying Shame"
5. Subdudes
"Annunciation"
6. Cranberries
"No Need to Argue"
7. NRBQ
"Message for the Mess Age"
8. Texas
"Rick's Road"
9. The Pretenders
"Last of the Independents"
10. Sinéad O'Connor
"Universal Mother"
11. Blood Oranges
"The Crying Tree"
12. Various Valley Artists
"Homegrown Harvest"

95.3 WRSI

Pioneer Valley

Wednesday December 28

Lonesome Brothers play the Northampton Brewery (584-9903) from 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Reggae Party at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9
Country Western dancing at the North Star with DJ Sparkie from 8 - 11 p.m.
Teen Dance Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley from 7 - midnight
Gay Night dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Music provided by DJ Dennis

Thursday December 29

NRBQ heat it up at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton with the rockin' Ray Mason Band at 7 and 10 p.m.
Snapcase plays Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton with Hoagie, Overcast, and Da Tronic
Mike V. has a song for you from New York, travels to the Rock Steep Cafe (583-3412) in Amherst at 8 p.m.
The Equates perform at the Northampton Brewery (584-9903) from 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
18+ dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Music provided by DJ Dennis
Blues and Quaxi featuring live music and barbecue specials at Squares, Shmuck and Game Club (268-7222) in Williamstown from 7 - 10 p.m.
Open Mike Blues Jam at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9
Boyz Nite Out at the North Star with DJ Steven and male go-go dancers from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Selections at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Island Dance Party with DJ Dan at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9

Anderson/Gram play the Black Sheep Cafe (253-3442) in Amherst at 8 p.m.

Ed Vadas performs at the Hotel Northampton (584-3100) from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. No cover!
Retro Night at Pearl Street 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. 21+
Laser Disc Dance Party at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Karaoke Night, the last word in hip hangouts, at the World War II Club (586-3314) in Northampton
18+ Dance Party with DJ Betsey at the North Star from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Saturday December 31

Ray Mason Band and Angry Johnny and the Killbilles ring in the new year with rock at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton, 21+
Debbie Davies brings the blues to Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton at 8 p.m.
Sleepless Theater celebrates the new year at the Black Sheep Cafe (253-3442) in Amherst at 8 p.m.
Art Steele Blues Band is at the Hotel Northampton from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Top 40 Club Music with DJ Lance at Pearl Street from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. 21+
21+ Dance Party with DJ Steven at the North Star from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Selections at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Island Dance Party with DJ Dan at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9

Sunday January 1

Retro Dance Night at the North Star with DJ Betsey and female go-go dancers from 9:45 p.m. - 1 a.m.



Their biggest hit was over 15 years ago, but Orleans are "Still the One." The band has had a rebirth of sorts lately with their "unplugged" performances, which allow the group's harmonies to stand out brightly. Hear original members John Hall, Lance Hoppen, and Larry Hoppen sing their hearts out at the Iron Horse in Northampton on Thursday, January 5, at 7 p.m.

Friday December 30

Rory Block and her acoustic blues are at the Iron Horse (584-0711) in Northampton at 7 and 10 p.m.
Stringbean play their wacky upbeat guitar pop at the Fire and Water Cafe (586-8336) in Northampton at 9 p.m.
New Year's Celebration Dance at the North Star (586-9409) in Northampton from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. 18+
Trailer Park and Mr. Pickle whoop it up at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton 21+
Zoo Station bring their "U2 dej vu" to Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton at 8:30 p.m. 18+.

Monday January 2

Gay Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Blue Monday at the Bay State Cabaret with Ed Vadas and the Fabulous Heavyweights. No cover! 21+

Tuesday January 3

Open Mike Night at the Northampton Brewery with host to be announced.
Open Mike Night at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9.

Wednesday January 4

New Horizons are jammin' at the Northampton Brewery (584-9903) from 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.



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It's hard work being a legend. Even though Dave Van Ronk deserves a rest, he's still going strong after thirty-five years of playing coffee houses, village clubs, and college music lectures. His versatile voice has sung everything from rock to jazz to blues, and Van Ronk will continue his critically lauded career at the Iron Horse in Northampton on Saturday, January 7, at 7 p.m.

Reggae Party at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9
Country Western dancing at the North Star with DJ Sparkie from 8-11 p.m.
Teen Dance Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley from 7-midnight
Gay Night dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Music provided by DJ Dennis

Thursday January 5

Orleans are "Still the One" when they play unplugged at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 7 p.m.
Cameron's Way Dieselmash, and Flycatcher perform at Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton
Art Steele solo at the Roadhouse (732-9095) in West Springfield at 9 p.m.
18+ dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Music provided by DJ Dennis
Blues and Ques, featuring live music and barbecue specials at Squires' Smoke and Game Club (268-7222) in Williamsburg from 7-10 p.m.
Open Mike Blues Jam at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9.
Boys' Nite Out at the North Star with DJ Steven and male go-go dancers from 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Selections at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Open Mike Night at the Mole's Eye Café (802-257-5777) in Brattleboro.

Friday January 6

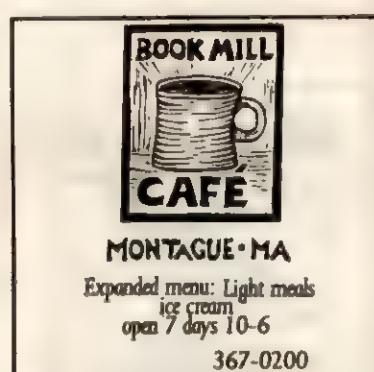
Wildest Dreams bring their reggae and world beat rhythms to Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton
Big Bad Booches play 'till the wee hours at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton 21+
Dancing at the Iron Horse (584-0610) with DJ Shawnuff at 10 p.m.
Retro Night at Pearl Street 9 p.m.-1 a.m. 21+
Laser Disc Dance Party at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Karaoke Night, the last word in hip hangouts at the World War I Club (586-3314) in Northampton 21+
18+ Dance Party with DJ Betsy at the North Star from 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Saturday January 7

Blue Oyster Cult are burnin' for you at Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton
Dave Van Ronk and Paul Jermia are at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 7 p.m.
Art Steele Blues Band plays Pearl Street (584-7810) in Northampton at 8:30 p.m.

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Retro Dance Night at the North Star with DJ Betsy and female go-go dancers from 9:45 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Monday January 9

Gay Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Blue Monday at the Bay State Cabaret with Ed Vadas and the Fabulous Heavyweights. No cover after 11 p.m.

Tuesday January 10

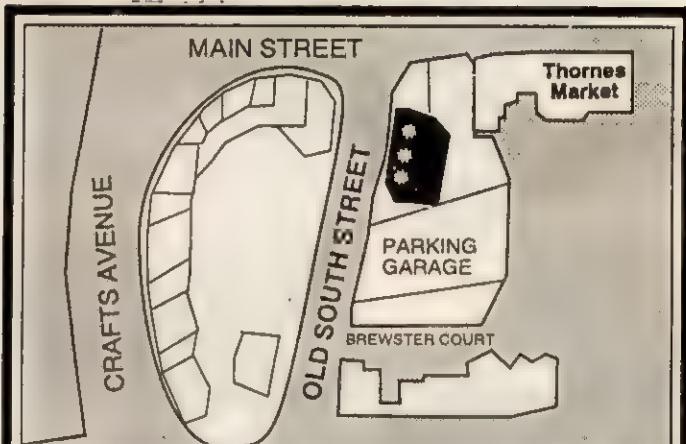
Open Mic Night at the Northampton Brewery with host to be announced
Open Mic Night at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9

Wednesday January 11

Reggae Party at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9
Country Western dancing at the North Star with DJ Sparkie from 8 - 11 p.m.
Teen Dance Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley from 7 - midnight
Gay Night dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Music provided by DJ Dennis



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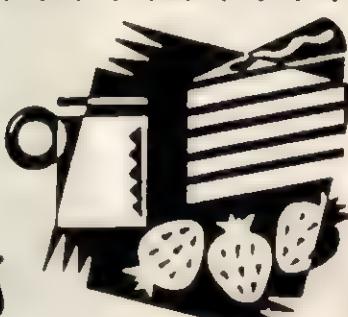
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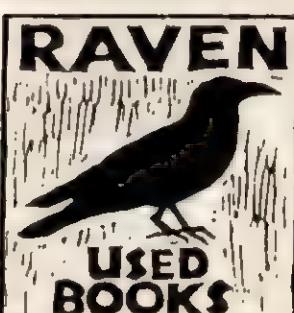


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A Theater Critic's Picks: The Best Of 1994

The best beyond the Great White Way

by Mark G. Auerbach

BEST PRODUCTION OF A PLAY

Richard III at Hartford Stage
Shakespeare's *Richard III* offers an intense portrait of a despotic ruler intoxicated by power. Hartford Stage mounted a multi-textured and searing production, buoyed by strong staging, extraordinary design, and rich performances. Richard Thomas' powerful performance as Richard III, along with those of Joan Copeland as Queen Margaret and John Michael Higgins as Buckingham, made this Shakespearean history play cutting-edge and contemporary.

BEST PRODUCTION OF A MUSICAL

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes at Goodspeed Opera House

Legendary Broadway composer Jule Styne was working on this revival at the time of his death this past fall. He would have been proud of this madcap recap of roaring '20s flappers, "dumb" blondes who get what they want, and jazz babies who dance the night away. In its first major revival since it launched the career of Carol Channing in the late 1940s, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* offered a fine score, slick staging, razzle-dazzle performances, and exquisite sets and costumes.

BEST NEW PRODUCTION

The Little Prince at StageWest

Artistic Director Eric Hill adapted and directed Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's whimsical children's classic into a riveting and winning production for children and adults. Exquisite production values and performances enveloped the intimate space, providing a journey of enthralling theater for all. *The Little Prince* was simple in scope, and simply marvellous.

BEST DIRECTOR OF A PLAY

Mark Lamos, *Richard III* at Hartford Stage

Mark Lamos brought a special musicality and the spectacle of grand opera to *Richard III*, stretching Shakespeare to its limits, without missing a beat or the special subtlety that makes a classic ever classical. Lamos proves that a stage director with vision can be a visionary. He is a national cultural treasure that fuels the contemporary American theater — and it all starts in our own backyard.

BEST DIRECTOR OF A MUSICAL

Charles Repole: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* at Goodspeed Opera House

Knowing the fine line between comedy and satire, Charles Repole gave *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* a fast-paced, slick production that never parodied the original or copied the more-familiar movie. He captured the zany character of the roaring '20s, jazz babies, and Charlestons without ever turning the proceedings into a caricature.

BEST MUSICAL DIRECTION

Andrew Wilder, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* at Goodspeed Opera House

It's a feat to make a 1940s musical about the 1920s sound jazzy to 1994 ears; it's equally high-hat to make music with a small orchestra. Andrew Wilder's musical direction of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* made Jule Styne's Broadway score sound like a veritable hit parade, and the Goodspeed pit band sound symphonic and solidgold.

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY

Michael Lichtenfeld, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* at Goodspeed Opera House

Diane Schobowski



The cast of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* at the Goodspeed Opera House

At Goodspeed, where choreography reigns supreme, Michael Lichtenfeld outdid many previous productions by staging a series of showstoppers with tap dances for days, a breathtaking Charleston, and some great period dancing. An exuberant ensemble and the nimble artistry of Karen Prunczik tearing down the house heightened Lichtenfeld's artistry — and they made it all seem so easy.

BEST PERFORMANCES IN A PLAY

Kameron Steele,
The Little Prince at StageWest

Lisa Arrindell Anderson, *Suddenly Last Summer* at Hartford Stage

In three small roles in *The Little Prince*, Kameron Steele, a young up-and-coming StageWest actor, triumphed. He slithered across the stage with amazing dexterity as a snake; he contorted his body with balletic control as a businessman. Like a chameleon, he created completely different characters within minutes. Steele has the right stuff for a major career.

Lisa Arrindell Anderson gave Catherine in *Suddenly Last Summer* a rich, warm, intense rendering. She moves with the grace of a ballerina exploring the tragic pain of a dying swan. She speaks with a voice musical with passion. Anderson negotiated Tennessee Williams' mordic monologues with a taut musicality rarely seen on the stage.

BEST PERFORMANCES IN A MUSICAL

Brent Barrett, *A Little Night Music* at Williamstown Theatre Festival

Maureen Moore, *A Little Night Music* at Williamstown Theatre Festival

As the philandering Count and his long-suffering wife Charlotte, Brent Barrett and Maureen Moore were the performers to watch in the Williamstown Theatre Festival's production of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*. Brilliant, understatedly cynical characterizations, and precise performances of Sondheim's waltzes and brittle lyrics punctuated Barrett's and Moore's onstage offerings, which clearly surpassed any musical performances this season. Barrett's pompous performance was perfect; Moore's adept and subtle performance was equally superb.

BEST SCENIC DESIGN

Marina Draghici, *Suddenly Last Summer* at Hartford Stage

Tennessee Williams' lazy New Orleans garden district took on bold splashes of frenzied color, surreal plantings, and beastly birds in Marina Draghici's dramatic scenic design for *Suddenly Last Summer* — an

razzle-dazzle, romanticized roaring '20s high-styles, and humorous camp to provide a series of fetching costumes that sparkled with elegance. Sicangco's designs looked ravishing onstage — they'd be equal showstoppers at any tony area gala, or for dancing the night away at Pearl Street.

BEST LIGHTING DESIGN

Darrel Maloney, *Richard III* at Hartford Stage

Darrel Maloney's brash, bold lighting heightened the onstage drama of *Richard III*. Blinding in intensity, yet often subtle in its impact, this remarkable design component, combined with Lamos' staging of the classic, made the stage sizzle.

BEST SOUND DESIGN

Bruce Odland, *Suddenly Last Summer* at Hartford Stage

Bruce Odland surrounded the audience with an environmental mix of chirping birds (more like Hitchcock in timbre than Disney) and eerie gospel, a combination that created goosebumps, running against the stereotype that these sounds often evoke or symbolize. Without his sound effects, *Suddenly Last Summer* would not have had the edge (or the edginess). ★

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

Eduardo Sicangco, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* at Goodspeed Opera House

Eduardo Sicangco combined Broadway



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From Fiction to Lies

Jeff Allard's best films of 1994

Recently I took my wife Beth's young nephew—the son I never had—to an afternoon showing of the sci-fi film *Stargate*. I was sure that any movie that featured flying pyramids couldn't be all bad; and sure enough I was right. Terry liked it so much he called me the next week to suggest that *Stargate* make my year-end Top Five list, along with *Ace Ventura*, *The Mask*, *The Flintstones*, and Van Damme's *Time Cop*. "Not even if I was drunk on cider, kid," I explained. For my wife's part, we only saw one film together this year. That was *Blankman*. With the commercials for *Nell* currently making me wince (they should have one of Foster's Oscars decorating *Nell*'s rustic cabin), my Top Five doesn't seem like it'll change at all between now and New Year's.

My favorites of the year, in no particular order:

Natural Born Killers

Oliver Stone's *Video A Go-Go!* Part artist, part huckster, Stone may be the most coldly calculating of today's media provocateurs, but he sure puts on a great show. Even if you didn't buy into the "facts" of his magical history tour, *J.F.K.*, it was a genius piece of filmmaking. The same goes for *N.B.K.* as the Stoned One takes a wallop out of *Theme #1120: Violence and the Media in America*. Pumped up on *Cocoa Puffs* and God knows what else, Stone does nothing less than rein-

vent the language of film using a variety of film stocks (from hand-held video to Super-8), rear projection, and subliminal editing techniques. To label this film in the "MTV style" is to not see this film at all. *N.B.K.*'s mind boggling approach, as well as its frighteningly convincing performances from Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis, effectively portray a society damaged beyond repair.

Pulp Fiction

Whether the subject was fast food, foot massages, female potbellies, Bible quotations, or "the Fonz," *Pulp Fiction* had the year's most quotable dialogue (my favorite: Uma Thurman's "Don't be a..."). Not nearly as violent as its detractors claimed, *Pulp Fiction* employed the best use of suggestive horror since Tobe Hooper's notorious but bloodless *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. Like Hooper's film, the advance word on *Fiction's* brutal highlights had audiences cringing even before



Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* is pumped up on *Cocoa Puffs*.

they entered the theater. The joke is that Tarantino never shows as much as the audience is afraid he will. All that—and the year's best appearance by a retired cereal mascot, *Fruit Brute*.

Ed Wood

A black-and-white bio on the transvestite director of the worst films of all time probably had little chance of drawing an audience... and, well... it didn't. It's unfortunate that for the first time in Tim Burton's unlikely career his off-beat instincts didn't pay off at the box office—especially since *Ed Wood* is his best, most emotional work, as well as his funniest since *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*. While it takes liberties with the hard facts of Wood's life, the film's affection for the man and filmmaking in general is touchingly profound. Martin Landau as Bela Lugosi is never less than brilliant. His struggle with a rubber octopus lays claim as the year's funniest, most pathetic display. As Wood himself might've said: "Cut! That was perfect!"

True Lies

The Man from A.H.N.O.L.D.? While *Speed* was the hottest-selling action ticket of the

year, pure blood action fanatics put their money on this very Bondian third-time team-up of Arnold Schwarzenegger and director James Cameron. Slammed for an uneasy domestic subplot that, for many, smelled of misogyny, *True Lies*' perfect marriage is behind the scenes. No one has consistently played to Schwarzenegger's particular strengths (and limitations) as well as Cameron. One of the few action specialists that can be referred to as visionary, *True Lies*' narrative flaws diminish next to Cameron's shaken and stirred set pieces. Anyone can put a bus on the highway, but *True Lies*' horseback pursuit, limo rescue, and climactic Harrier jet sequence were textbook, sometimes even breakthrough, models of how to film action. Oh, and Tom Arnold was the year's best sidekick, bar none.

Interview With the Vampire

Director Neil Jordan proves that he understands Rice's novel better than the legion of fans who thought this film would live or die by its homoeroticism. He nicely pegs the despair at the center of this story—coping with the utter lack of spiritual Epiphany. Louis' consuming horror comes from finding in each new experience that the world, and his soul, remain a blank slate. While some may have found all the sun-starved glumness as exciting as a snooze in a coffin, *Vampire* comfortably compares to other similarly "boring" fantasy films as *Excaliber*, *Blade Runner*, and *The Hunger*. The only difference is that this one actually made money. Flaws aside (there are gaps in the narrative), Jordan's bloodsucking behemoth is a distinguished creature of the night. Moments such as Claudia's ashen body crumbling at Louis' touch were truly haunting.

Rounding out the year in honorable mention: the best Mexican vampire movie of the year, *Cronos*; Redford's slam on the early television era, *Quiz Show*; Brandon Lee's final performance in the dark fantasy *The Crow*; Woody Allen's breezy *Bullets Over Broadway*; and John Waters' cruelly hilarious *Serial Mom*.★

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Cinematic Success Stories

The best movies of 1994

by Joni Fraser

Nettie nineteen ninety-four, by all Hollywood standards, was a very good year. Dominating at the box office were such G- or PG-rated movies as *The Flintstones*, *Forrest Gump*, *The Lion King*, *The Santa Clause*, and *Mrs. Doubtfire* (a late '93 release). Studios seem to have realized that family films may be the only surefire way of getting many people into theaters at all. Family

Beyond the huge-grossing family hits and the hundreds of forgettable films, though, are the gems — those movies that send you out of the theater glad that you went in. They defy conventions, and often defy the odds of even being made. What they have in common is the willingness to challenge your assumptions, to surprise you with their directness and risk-taking, and to address your mind and heart. Here are the best movies of '94, in no particular order.

1. *Vanya on 42nd Street*. One of the year's biggest cinematic treats is Louis Malle's filmed adaptation of Chekhov's play *Uncle Vanya*, a compassionate examination of the human penchant for self-destructiveness. André Gregory had been rehearsing the same cast on and off for five years when Malle came in and shot it. From its jazzy opening sequence, as the actors converge on an

abandoned theater in Times Square, to its devastating ending, the film is a triumph. The performances are brilliant across the board, and Wallace Shawn as Uncle Vanya is a standout. The filmed play, shot almost entirely in close-up, has an immediacy beyond that of live theater. (Now at the Academy of Music).

2. *Red*. The brilliant crown of a trilogy by director Krzysztof Kieslowski is based on the colors of the French flag and their symbolism. Red stands for fraternity, the common blood that links a young Swiss model and an older retired judge who are separated by their ages, professions, and life experiences. They are brought together by a chance encounter — or perhaps, as the film suggests, fate. It's a masterfully constructed and visually haunting film that ends with an incidence that brings together the main characters from the two previous films, *Blue* and *White*. (Coming to the Pleasant Street Theater in early 1995).

3. *Hoop Dreams*. Nothing constructed by a screenwriter could be as engrossing and suspenseful as the story told in this documentary, which follows the lives of two African-American basketball players who aspire to make it in the NBA. The film shows the very real pressures the young

men face both on and off the court, and you're never sure how it will turn out for them. Edited with economy and just the right amount of outrage at the system that keeps offering the players and their families hope while exploiting them all the while, it's a vivid picture of inner-city life that doesn't resort to clichés; it just happens to be about

nately chilling bleakness and warmth and humor.

5. *Pulp Fiction*. Director Quentin Tarantino's second film has a lot going for it besides John Travolta's return to the dance floor. It has an inventive plot that weaves three disparate stories together, Tarantino's trademark shock-

ing scenes, less shocking but equally audacious scenes, and dialogue that no one else is capable of creating. It also features a perfectly controlled and rendered performance by Samuel Jackson as a thug who experiences a moment of clarity about his life's work.

Honorable

Mentions include *32 Short Films About Glenn Gould*, a lively fictionalized investigation into the life of the iconoclast pianist; *Quiz Show*, further proof that it's possible to make a studio film that's both entertaining and thoughtful; *Bullets Over Broadway*, which shows that the demise of Woody Allen is grossly overstated; *Go Fish*, with its lively take on contemporary lesbian life; *Imaginary Crimes*, a young woman's coming-of-age film and a sleeper that didn't get a chance; and *Red Rock West*, a film noir sleeper that did.★



Christopher Walken in Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*.

basketball.

4. *The Shawshank Redemption*. In a year in which literary adaptations fared poorly, *The Shawshank Redemption* is a spectacular exception. Based on a novella by Stephen King, the film follows the unlikely friendship between a man wrongly accused of murder and a savvy lifer over the course of twenty years in a hellhole called Shawshank Prison. The absorbing tale of companionship and deliverance that ensues — anchored by the memorable performances of Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins — surprises with its alter-

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Robbins and Freeman are inmates in *The Shawshank Redemption*.

films became box office behemoths, with even lame efforts such as *The Little Rascals* doing well.

Beyond the return of the family film, other trends of '94 include a retreat from taking on "serious" subject matter. Especially noticeable after last year's *Philadelphia* (AIDS), *Schindler's List* (the Holocaust), and *In the Name of the Father* (human rights), this year few movies dealt head-on with issues of substance. Sexual harassment was the ostensible, but not the real, focus of the films *Disclosure* and *Wolf*. Also in danger of becoming an endangered species are traditional romances. No one knows how to write love stories any more — and no one wants to see them. Witness the sad spectacles of *I Love Trouble*, *Love Affair*, the witless *Speechless*, and the sappy effort of *Only You*.

If love stories are bombing, the buddy film is flourishing wildly. Celebrations of male bonding proliferated and appeared in several guises — the sentimental (*Forrest Gump*, *The Shawshank Redemption*); the gory (*Frankenstein*, *Interview with the Vampire*), the slacker (*Clerks*); the arthouse (*Barcelona*; *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*); and the ultra-violent (*Pulp Fiction*, *Killing Zoe*).

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ART EVENTS/EXHIBITS

DMZ XING (Demilitarized Zone Crossing), an exhibit by Yong Soon Min, will be at the Smith College Museum of Art through December 31, 1994. Call 585-2760 for hours and information.

Paintings by Keith Hollingsworth will be on display at the Pahana Gallery on Main Street in Northampton through January 27. Call 584-2753.

The Haydenville Drawing Group presents their Fifth Annual exhibit at the Northampton Center for the Arts January 4 - 29. Call 584-7327 for more information.

Other Side of the Tree Line, a collection of nature portraits by Elsie Heller will be displayed at the Montague Book Mill through December 31.

The Berkshire Museum presents a lecture on **Woodcuts, Engravings, and Etchings** on December 28, 1 - 2 p.m. Call (413)-443-7171.

Arts West, a group exhibition by Western Massachusetts artists, will be displayed in the Forbes Library Gallery December 2 - 30.

Williams College Museum of Art presents **The Field Room In Context: American Art 1860 - 1900** through December 31. For information call (413) 597-2429.

Delay in Glass: A View of Duchamp's Green Box will be on exhibit at the Williams College Museum of Art through December 31. Call 597-2429 for information.

The Springfield Library and Museums will present a month of special exhibitions and activities based on a **Victorian Holiday** theme, through December 31. For information call 739-3871.

The Northampton Center for the Arts will present

1,2,3...x10: Works in Sequence by area college faculty through January 1. For information, call 584-7327.

Worcester Art Museum presents **Heritage of the Land: Contrasts in Native American Art and Life**

through January 8. For information call (508) 799-4406.

On view at the **Sterling and Francine Clark Institute** are the exhibits **A Golden Harvest: Paintings by Adam Pynacker and Altered States: Conservation, Analysis, and the Interpretation of Works of Art**. For information call (413) 458-9545.

Miracles of Mexican Folk Art: Retablos and Ex-

Votos, an exhibition of rare 18th and 19th century Mex can folk painting, will be on display at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts through January 8. Information is available at 739-3871.

The Williams College Museum of Art is currently hosting a wide variety of art exhibits, including **Sadhu, Hindu Holy Men: Photographs by Kevin Bubriski** through January 22. For more information call 597-2429.

New works by **contemporary impressionist Alice Mongeon** will be on exhibit in the Sales and Rental

Gallery of the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts through January 24. For additional information call (413) 739-3871.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Society presents an exhibition on **Pilgrims and Adventurers** at the Springfield Library and Museum through the end of March. Call 739-3871 for details.

Historic Deerfield will exhibit children's story tableaus in miniature at the Hall Tavern Museum and holiday room settings in the 1799 Asa Stebbins House through January 31. For more information call 774-5581.

The Worcester Art Museum presents **Insights: A Distant View**, an exhibition of traditional landscape by six artists which will run through February 26. For information call (508) 799-4406.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum has opened a new gallery dedicated to the significant role that greater Springfield played in the development of the

Deadline for calendar submissions is the Monday one week before publication. Please direct all material to **Calendar Editor, Optimist Publications, 13 Old South St., Northampton, MA 01060.**

firearms industry. For information call (413) 739-3871.

For a complete listing of **events for children and adults** at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, call 443-7171.

For a listing of **films, demonstrations, and exhibitions** at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, call (617) 267-9300 ext. 448.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

The Children's Museum in Holyoke presents **Sea Monsters: Dinosaurs of the Deep** December 16 - April 22. The museum also hosts a wide variety of children's activities on a regular basis. Call (413)-536-7048 for more information.

The Berkshire Museum has a variety of **programs for children** during school vacation. For more information call 443-7171.

Register now for a **Creative Writing Workshop for Kids**, facilitated by Anna Kirwan-Vogel. For information call 584-5264.

The Children's Museum in Holyoke hosts Small Fry every Friday morning 9:30 a.m. - noon. For information call 536-KIDS.

Boston's Museum of Fine Arts offers youth group visits and guided tours by appointment. For brochure and reservations call (617) 267-9300 ext. 310. Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

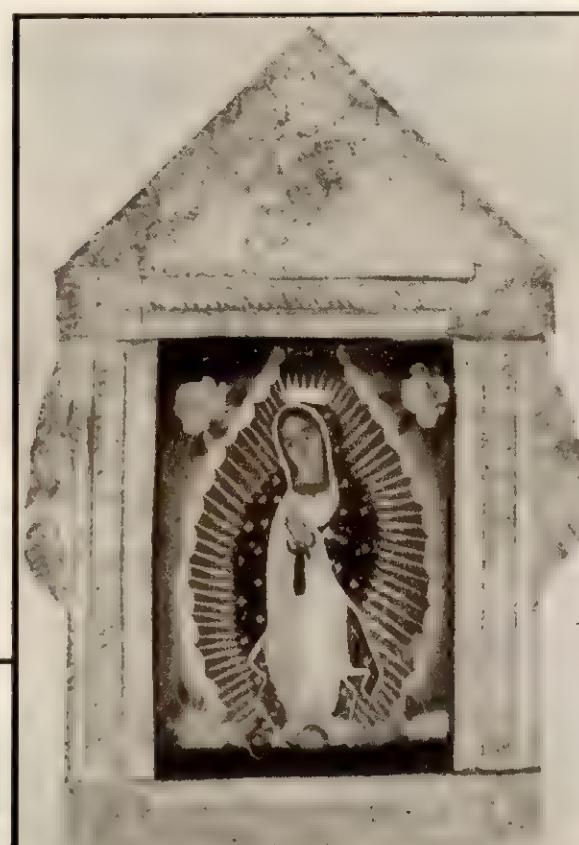
Call the Children's Room (739-3871) at the Springfield City Library for dates and times of **story hour** for children.

A pottery class for children meets Thursdays.

Devotional Art

The vibrant artistic and religious heritage of Mexico is celebrated in **Miracles of Folk Art: Retablos and Ex-Votos**, an exhibit featuring 36 Mexican votive paintings on copper, tin, and wood. This type of art, which depicts a wide range of religious figures, was central to the lives of the Mexican people throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The exhibit will run through January 8 at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts. Call 739-3871 for more information.

— Jonathan Ratcliff



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HOLIDAY HOURS

December 31: 10 to 6

New Year's Day: CLOSED

January 2: 10 to 6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Leverett Recreation Commission presents **Yoga Classes** every Tuesday night at the Leverett Town Hall. Call Susan Valentine at 548-9810. The Northampton Yoga Center (585-5728) offers **daily yoga classes**, ongoing workshops, yoga therapy and counseling. **Valley Women's Martial Arts, Inc.** (527-0101) offers ongoing beginner classes for new students starting the first full week of every month.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

The Traprock Peace Center Weapons Elimination Committee will meet on December 28 at 7 p.m. at the Bangs Community Center in Amherst. Call Ginny Schneider at 665-0536 or leave a message at 773-7427. **The Paradise Coalition** will meet the first Monday in January from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Fire and Water in Northampton. Community concerns and issues will be discussed. Call Joel at 586-5548. **Surviving Grief**, ten-week programs held in Amherst, offer support through education and sharing for those who have lost a loved one. Call Joan Gibson at 253-3133. Contact Western Mass Intergroup Office (532-2111) for **Alcoholics Anonymous** information, meeting times, or locations.

DANCING

Cammy Kaynor will lead a **Playful Playford Party English Country Dance** at the Munson Library in South Amherst on January 7, 8 p.m. - midnight. Call 665-2111 or 772-1908 for more information. **DanceKinetics**, a combination of **yoga, aerobics, and meditation**, Mondays 6 - 7:15 p.m. at East Street Studio and Thursdays 7 - 8:15 p.m. in Greenfield. Call (413) 774-3281 for more information. **Contact Improvisation Dance Jam** will be held Wednesday evenings from 8 - 10 p.m. at East Street Studios in Hadley. Call 584-7963 or 586-6834 for more information. A class in **Contact Improvisation**, in which dancers with disabilities and able-bodied dancers explore creativity with touch and movement, is offered through Amherst Leisure Services. Call (413) 256-4065 to register. **Scandinavian Dance** every first and third Thursday at 8 p.m. at the East Street Studio in Hadley. Call 586-4385 or 536-8760 for further information. **Improvisational Dance** every Wednesday 8:15 - 10:30 p.m. at East Street Studio. All levels are welcome. For further information call 256-8627 or 624-3709. **Beginning and Intermediate Yoga Classes** For more information call 586-3259. **Jazzercise** has classes at various times in Deerfield, Greenfield, and Sunderland for all levels of fitness. Child care is now available for the Sunderland morning classes. Call (413) 665-7130 for more information. **Amherst International Folk Dancing** at the Bangs Community Center in Amherst 8 - 10 p.m. every Friday night. Call Eva and Gene at 549-6748 or Cindy and Dennis at 256-0188. Come learn the two-step with "Doc" Haggerty, along with other line and freestyle dances, at the Northeast American School of Dance in Northampton every Tuesday and Thursday 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Call 584-8521.

for more information

EVENTS

First Night in Northampton will host over 60 performances starting at 2 p.m. on December 31. The event will host a wide variety of entertainment for all: music, comedy, dance, theater, and storytelling. Buttons are required. Call Northampton's Center for the Arts at 584-7327 for more information. **Witness to Violence**, a nationwide series of events focusing on public awareness of violence against women, takes place at the **Arts Council of Franklin County** in Greenfield, January 1, 1 - 2 p.m. Call 772-0871 for more information. **A W.E.B. Du Bois Exhibit**, featuring papers, speeches, correspondence, and photos, is open to the public 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at UMass's W.E.B. Du Bois Library through February 28. Call 545-0150 for more information. Starting January 7, **Free Public Planetarium Shows** will be held Saturdays at 4 p.m. at the Amherst College Bassett Planetarium in Morgan Hall. Call 256-6234. The Springfield Library and Museum is taking reservations for two trips planned to **Quebec** February 3 - 7, and **Costa Rica** February 11 - 20. Contact the Haywards at 736-8956 for more information.

Road Trip

Southern Exposure: Photographs by Melissa Brown will be on display at the Forbes Library Gallery, January 3 - 30. The photographs, taken during a three-week road trip throughout the South from December 1993 through January 1994, concentrate on the cities of Montgomery, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; and assorted locations in between. "The trip enabled me to experience various customs and walks of life, each location possessing a special personality or essence," explains Brown. Brown, originally from the Pioneer Valley, recently returned after receiving her B.F.A. in photography from the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. An opening reception will be held on January 18 from 5 - 7 p.m. Call 586-0489 for more information.

— Melinda Webber



The Tenth Annual Martin Luther King Commemoration for students 11 and over and adults will be held on January 16 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Academy of Music in Northampton. This year's theme is "Youth Empowerment." Call 584-8975 for more information.

A collection of holiday trees, decorated and contributed by community groups, will be on display through January 22 at Holyoke Heritage State Park. For information call 534-1723. **The U.S. Hot Rod Grand Slam Monster Jam** will take place at the Springfield Civic Center on January 6 and 7 at 6 p.m. Call 787-6600.

GLB EVENTS/INFO

To give or receive information about gay, lesbian, or bisexual events, resources, counseling, 5-college groups, announcements, and more, call **LAMDA**, the UMass Program for GLB Concerns' 24-hour information line, at 54-LAMDA (545-2632).

The UMass Program for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns seeks UMass graduate and undergraduate students with work study for positions in the program. For more information call 545-4824. **Blatant**, a monthly newsletter of events at UMass and in the area gay community, is free to any Five College address, other subscriptions are \$4 - \$7 on a sliding scale. Call 545-4824 for more information.

The Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus is open to new members and is having an exciting 1994 - 95 season. For additional information, contact the PVGMC at 586-1775.

LEAH (Lesbian Education And Health, 586-2016) offers free comprehensive physical exams, mammograms, and breast health education to lesbians.

Discussion/Support Group for gay and bisexual men Fridays 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Room 311, 16 Center Street in Northampton. Call 585-5819.

Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics therapy group meets on Tuesday evenings in Amherst. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center at 253-2822.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Therapy Group meets on Thursday evenings in Amherst. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center at 253-2822.

Exploring Your Sexual Orientation is an ongoing group for anyone wanting to discuss sexuality in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. Meets Tuesday evenings. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center at 253-2822 for more information.

Gay Teens Pioneer Valley Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth Project welcomes new members. There is a teen support group (under 21) and mentor program. Northampton-based. Call 24 hours 584-4213.

Out Now Teen Group of Springfield, a support, educational, and recreational group for gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens or those questioning their sexuality, meets Fridays 3:30 - 5 p.m. in Springfield. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center (253-2822).

HEALTH/BODY

Smoking Cessation Groups will begin January 3 through the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts. Call (800) 586-7752.

A program on **diabetes self-management** is open to diabetics and their families at Holyoke Hospital (534-2500) beginning January 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Oral-Facial Support Group will meet January 10 at 7 p.m. at Mercy Hospital. Call 748-6896 for more information.

continued on page 37

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Emotional Fitness

by Tom Raymond, MSW

D

ear Tom,

I'm a fifty-year-old male. I've been dating a thirty-year-old female for about 3 1/2 years. We do not live together. Our normal pattern is to see each other every week from Saturday evening until sometime on Sunday. Once or twice a year we'll go away for a weekend or a week-long vacation. On the surface our relationship is good, but I'm dissatisfied because I feel intellectually unchallenged. To put it bluntly, I'm bored. I'd like to find a relationship with someone else but the woman I'm currently with loves me, and she's a good person. I don't want to hurt her. What should I do?

— Bored But Kind

If the problem is intellectual incompatibility, and your only hesitation is the hurt you may cause your partner, there's nothing to do but harden your heart and tell her you've decided to see other people. Intimacy demands honesty, and honesty is often painful. Pretending would merely delay the pain.

However, there's something in your question that makes me want to ask a few of my own. If you've been going out for 3 1/2 years, and things have been "good," why are you so sure the boredom is intellectual, or that the intellectual stimulation you require needs to

come from your partner?

Before ending a relationship in which you've invested this much time and energy, I suggest asking your partner how she's feeling about the relationship. Is there a reason you aren't living together? Do you have any long-range plans? Have there been any conflicts lately regarding other aspects of your relationship?

The nature of intimacy is such that a lack of intellectual stimulation is rarely the reason a couple calls it quits — cerebral discussions have to be pretty intense to compete with the pleasure of sex or laughter. If you can add a few intellectual sparring partners to your circle of friends, and revive your relationship with some fresh talk about the future, you may not have to hurt her, or yourself.

Dear Tom,

I'm a middle child and I've always resented the stereotypes about the "first child syndrome," the second child as "peace maker," etc. Is there any truth to these pigeonholes?

Birth Disordered

Did you know that research indicates that middle children are most likely to question the significance of birth order? Only kidding.

The trouble with psychological generalities is they're true "in general" — meaning there are almost as many exceptions as there are examples. If the question is, does birth order influence a child's development, the answer is

yes. If the question is, how does this happen, the answer is I'm not sure.

Statistics tell us firstborn children tend to have higher incomes and education levels than their younger siblings. Could this be because parents invest more energy in — and have higher expectations of — their first children? Could be. Or is it that older siblings use up the college fund first, or that they're not as competent in relationships, and therefore spend more time pursuing individual goals? I guess so.

The point is, when it comes to the formation of an individual personality, what we do know is still a fraction of what we don't. And any theory based on a relatively small percentage of information will have holes in it the size of

Cleveland. This is why you shouldn't be surprised if you find you've slipped through one of those holes.

Dear Tom,

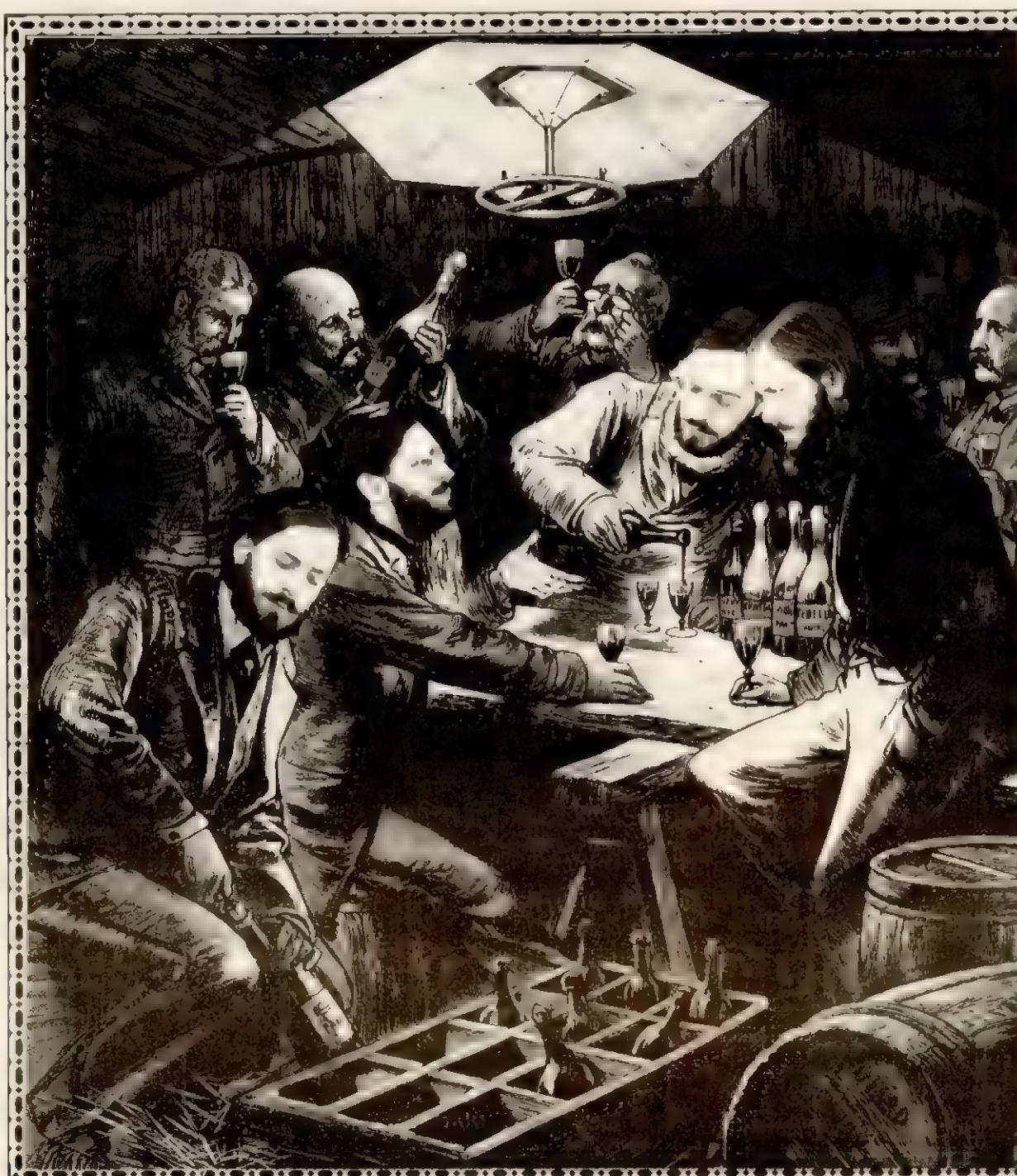
I have a very close friendship with a woman with whom I would like to be romantically involved, but I'm afraid if I say anything I may risk losing our friendship. How can I get some answers without too much risk?

— Sneak Attack

If it's a close friendship, letting her know you'd like to take the next step may change things, but so will deciding not to tell her. In fact, more relationships are done in by pretending than by honesty. Simply count to three and tell her what you've told me.

If the timing doesn't feel right, you can wait, but don't wait too long. You need to know whether or not this woman's for you so you can let the others down easy — or let them know they've still got a chance.

Tom Raymond, MSW, is a licensed clinical social worker who provides individual, family, and couples therapy at his office in Northfield, Massachusetts. Direct your questions to: Emotional Fitness, Optimist Publications, 13 Old South Street, Northampton, MA, 01060.



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Breaking Away: Cross-country Skiing

A down-to-earth combination of skiing and hiking, cross-country skiing can provide a more complete workout than running or cycling, since it emphasizes muscles in both the upper and lower body. It can also help develop coordination. Done correctly, it's the best aerobic exercise there is.

You can ski fancy, or you can ski plain. All you need is some equipment (rentable), warm clothing, and some snow-covered, open terrain. Urbanites and suburbanites can go to a park or the nearest open field or golf course. Most people don't need more than one lesson before starting out. Cross-country skiing can be much less expensive than downhill, and poses a lower risk of serious injury. It's a

range of accommodations. Instruction and rental equipment are usually available, too.

Equipment. Skis are shorter and simpler than they used to be, designed to get you going without preliminaries. If you're a beginner, rent equipment until you decide what suits you best.

Traditional cross-country skis are narrower and longer than downhill skis — the old rule was that they should be as long as the distance between the wrist of your upstretched arm and the ground. With long skis, you can cross almost any terrain without sinking into the snow. However, the trend is toward shorter, more maneuverable skis.

Short skis — about 27 inches shorter than regular ones — are more responsive, easier to learn to use, easier to balance on, easier to transport, and roughly comparable in price. They are also increasingly popular on groomed trails.

Waxed vs. waxless: Waxless skis require less fuss and provide more control on downhill inclines. Once you've become proficient, you may want the better overall performance and speed afforded by waxable skis. You have to learn how to match the wax to the type of snow and to change it as snow conditions change.

Cross-country skiing can be much less expensive than downhill, and poses a lower risk of serious injury.

wonderful activity for loners or for families. Age is no barrier. New, easy-to-use short skis and a relatively new technique called "skating" can add to the fun.

Cross-country skiing can offer a variety of outdoor experiences. "Back-country skiing" is hiking in the wild on skis. But now, in this country and Canada, there are hundreds of resorts with groomed trails (no rocks or obstructions), a choice of terrains, and a wide

Poles: Whether you're renting or buying, you'll need advice on what pole length is best suited to your height, skiing ability, and type of skiing. Poles should be lightweight and easy to handle; be sure they have a comfortable grip and strong, adjustable strap. Tip: when trying out your poles, wear the gloves you'll wear while skiing.

Boots and bindings: The boots typically resemble high-top hiking boots. Try the boots

on while wearing the socks you'll use for skiing. The binding usually attaches to the front of the boot only, leaving the heel free to move as you take the long strides typical of good form. Make sure you understand how the boot snaps into the binding and how you can get in and out of it.

If you decide to buy equipment, expect to pay from \$200 to \$300 for a basic package of skis, poles, boots, and bindings.

Technique. Your first time out, use the skis like snowshoes and tramp across the snow utilizing the poles for balance. But as soon as you feel comfortable, you'll want to get in the swing of things.

Kick-and-glide technique. This is the classic way to cross-country ski, using your poles to propel you along, not just to help you retain your balance. The upper and lower body work together in a rhythm of kicks, long glides, and propelling poling motions. This is a "natural" motion, like walking, easier to learn than ice skating, but it takes practice to get it right. Eventually you should be zipping across the snow with your body at a 45° to 60° angle to the ground.

You may also enjoy a relatively new technique called *skating*. It can be done in an open field, but a trail especially groomed for skating is better, since the snow must be packed. You push off on one foot, riding the glide as long as possible, then push off with the other foot. You can do double poling (both down at once) or alternate poling — or use no poles at all. Once you master the technique, you can almost fly. *Complications:* You will definitely need waxed skis and longer poles. Also, it's not regarded as "good form" to skate over tracks groomed for classic cross-country skiing. Some resorts have special snow trails for skating, but some discourage it.

Clothing. Dress in layers that you can peel off, since this activity generates lots of heat. You could start off in jeans, long cotton underwear, a couple of shirts, and a

wool sweater, but cotton and wool may leave you wet and cold. Veterans of the sport know the advantages of garments made of newer synthetic fabrics that protect against the elements while allowing moisture (perspiration) to escape. Don't forget a hat and lightweight insulated mittens or gloves.

Water. You'll need to drink plenty, because this is a sweaty sport. Thirst may not be a reliable gauge — drink before, during, and after. For all-day treks, bring along a light backpack or fanny pack to hold water, food, and an extra sweater for rest stops.

Getting ready. If you are over 40 or not in good shape, check with your doctor before you begin skiing. Gradually build up the amount of time you spend at it. Otherwise you run the risk of overuse strains (such as tendinitis) of the shoulder, knee, and arm. To prepare for a season of cross-country skiing, it's best to alternate activities that primarily strengthen the upper body (rowing or swimming) with those emphasizing the lower body (skating, roller-blading, biking, running, or brisk walking) to promote overall muscle tone. Or you can use a cross-country ski machine.★

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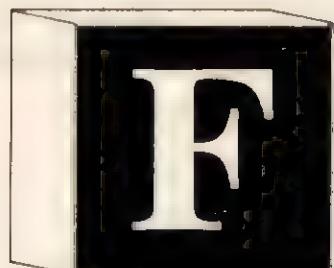
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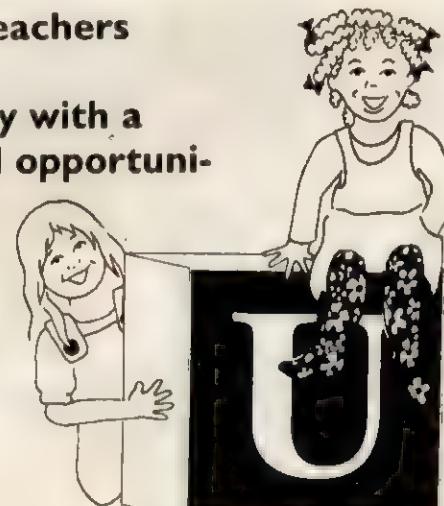
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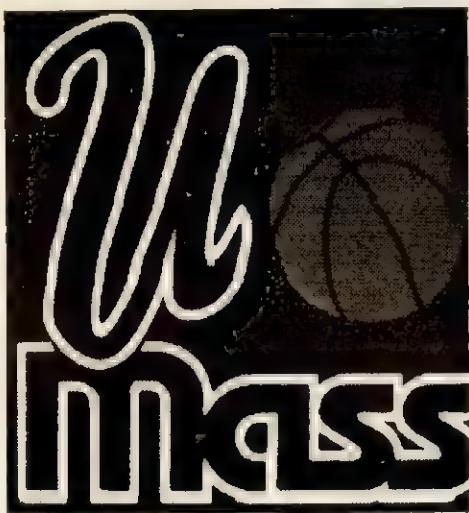
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UMASS HOOOPS!

with George Miller — the Voice of the UMass Minutemen

After majoring in French for four years of college and broadcasting college basketball for the last four years, two of my favorite pursuits in life will intersect during the week of December 26, when the UMass Minutemen travel to Strasbourg, France, for the Buckler Christmas Challenge. It's an exhibition tournament which pairs UMass with five European professional teams — three from France and one each from Italy and Portugal. The Minutemen will play two 20-minute games (that's right) on December 27, followed by a regulation 40-minute game the next day, and all three games can be heard on WHMP AM/FM. It has been a dozen years since I spent a three-month term abroad in France as a high school senior. Although this four-day trip won't do much to get me fully reacquainted, it's still a tremendous opportunity. I don't know if I'd follow the Minutemen to the ends of the earth, but I'll gladly settle for several thousand miles

in distance and six hours forward in time. Although these games will have no effect on the Minutemen's regular-season standings and statistics, they will expose UMass to the international style of basketball and

"To look at the first six games of this 1994 - 95 season, you just know that UMass' best basketball is still ahead of us."

the rules changes (some obvious, some subtle) which go along with it. Interestingly, Providence College played in the Buckler Challenge a year ago and lost both games it played, yet those I talked to at Providence called the tournament invaluable for the Friars' rugged Big East schedule. The rough, physical play of the European teams prepared Providence nicely for the similar style featured by most Big East opponents — in fact, the Friars wound up as surprise win-

ners of the conference's post-season tournament.

To look at the first six games of this 1994 - 95 season, you just know that UMass' best basketball is still ahead of us, but it's apparent that they've played frighteningly well at times. We saw it for the full 40 minutes against Arkansas and for extended periods in other games. En route to their 5 - 1 record, the Minutemen have won games without much help from Lou Roe (Maryland, Western Kentucky), Marcus Camby (Pittsburgh, Western Kentucky), Donta Bright (Princeton) or Mike Williams (Arkansas, Princeton). UMass is winning games by an average of nearly 21 points, and John Calipari has been able to play all 15 of his players in three of the first six games. They've outrun the running teams, out-defended the defensive teams, scored from inside, scored from outside, received the usual contributions from their starters, built some quality depth — you name it. Even though they tripped over the last hurdle in California against Kansas, they were able to

descend into the crucible of the Baltimore Arena and pull out a pulsating win over a Maryland team that had bounced the Minutemen from last year's NCAAs. There will be other big road games and hostile environments for this team to face, which is why speculation that UMass will now run the table and finish the regular season at 26 - 1 is ridiculous. But, like it or not, that kind of speculation is already out there.

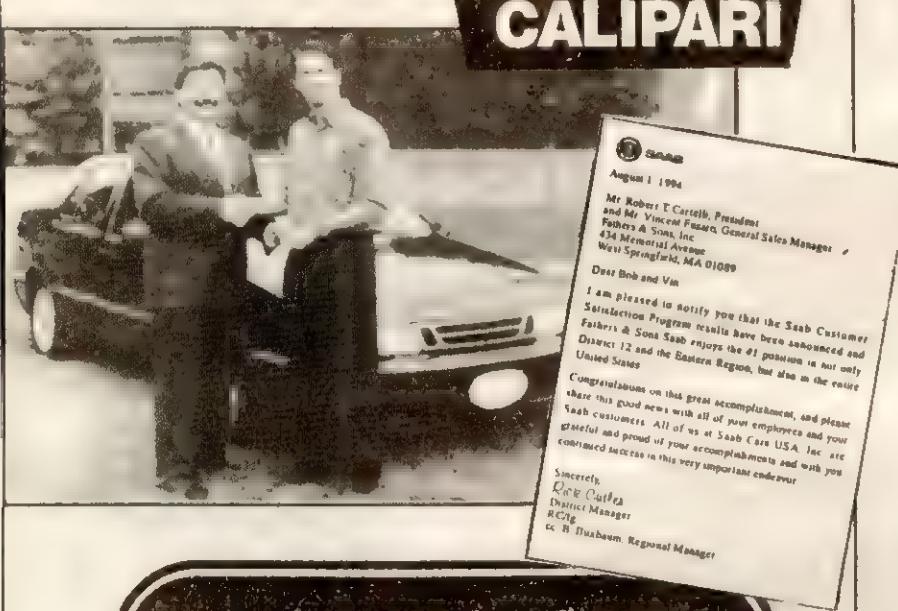
The upcoming Buckler Challenge is just that — a challenge to this talented team to show the kind of form against veteran professional players that they've impressively displayed against 19- and 20-year-olds on this side of the ocean. The stakes may be fairly low, but this trip affords the Minutemen both a stylistic contrast and a cultural introduction, tough to incorporate in other circumstances — not to mention my own initial foray into international broadcasting! Coach Jack Leaman will be right alongside me for each of the UMass games at the Hall Rhenus in Strasbourg. *A la prochaine.* ★

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- His free throw percentage of .833 (5 of 6) was tops on the team last season
- Hit 11 out of 41 shots from 3-point land last year
- Named to last year's pre-season Freshmen of Influence team
- Kept UMass in the game against St. Joseph's last season, hitting 3 for 3 three-pointers in the second half



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Alzheimer Support Group will be held at Palmer House Healthcare the last Wednesday of each month 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. For more information call 283-8361

Two Support Groups for HIV-Positive People are ongoing in the area. Call Kevin McVeigh at 586-2016

Ongoing Parkinson's Disease Support Group has two different meeting times and locations on Tuesday evenings. Call Ruthie (584-2192)

Family and friends of cancer patients meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Church of the Apostles in Belchertown. Call Joan Gibson at 253-3133

Give the "Gift of Life," by **becoming a blood donor** at Mercy Hospital's Blood Bank. Call 748-9511 to make an appointment. You must be 18 or older.

LECTURES *continued from page 29*

Jude Rozhon will present "Tarot: Spiritual Path/Celestine Insights" on January 6, 7 - 9 at

Oasis in Amherst. Call 256-4995 for a reservation.

A lecture on the **mathematical aspects of the music of Bach** will be presented by pianist Victor Hill at 3 p.m. on January 8 at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (458-9545) in Williamstown.

Lee Sulzner, a member of the Amherst Historical Society will present the next Noontime Talk, "What is so special about Amherst's Architecture," on January 19 at the Strong House (256-0678) in Amherst.

OPPORTUNITIES

A silent New Year's Retreat will be offered through Woodman Hill Quaker Center in Deerfield December 30 - January 1. Call 774-3431

The Springfield Jewish Community Center will have **single group skating** from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Forest Park. R.S.V.P. to Ella Zeiniger (739-4715) at the JCC.

Playwrights in Progress welcomes the **submission of one-act and full-length plays** to be considered for production and/or inclusion in our Reading Series. For more information, call 444-1119 or 586-2143.

Purchase **Forest Park Zoological Society memberships**. Funds will be used for animal care and veterinary care of our 100+ animals. Write: 100 Forest Park, Ca 01211.

The Shops at Baystate West are **seeking new talent and established artists and musicians** for performances at the complex during the 1995 calendar year. Persons interested should contact the marketing office at Baystate West, attention Susan Brown, 170 Market Street, P.O. Box 1560, Springfield, MA 01115. Or, call 733-2171.

Amherst Leisure Services (256-4065) is offering a **Lifeguard Training Course**. The 27-hour course will be taught by certified instructors according to Red Cross standards.

The American Cancer Society's 1995 Golf Pass is available for holiday gift giving. It includes rounds from 25 Massachusetts golf courses. Call 1-800-952-7664.

The International Library of Famous Poets is sponsoring a poetry contest with a grand prize of \$1000 open to everyone in the Northampton area. Send entries by January 15, 1995 to: Free Poetry Contest, 421 N. Rodeo Dr., Suite 544, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

The Jones Library English as a Second Language Center (256-4090) needs volunteers to teach English and basic skills to adult immigrants. No

experience necessary.

The Homework Club needs volunteers for an after-school program designed to help children from non-English-speaking families do their homework. Call the Cambodian-American Association at 253-0696.

The Holyoke Tutor/Mental Program (534-3376), sponsored by the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, is recruiting volunteers interested in helping adult learners improve their English skills.

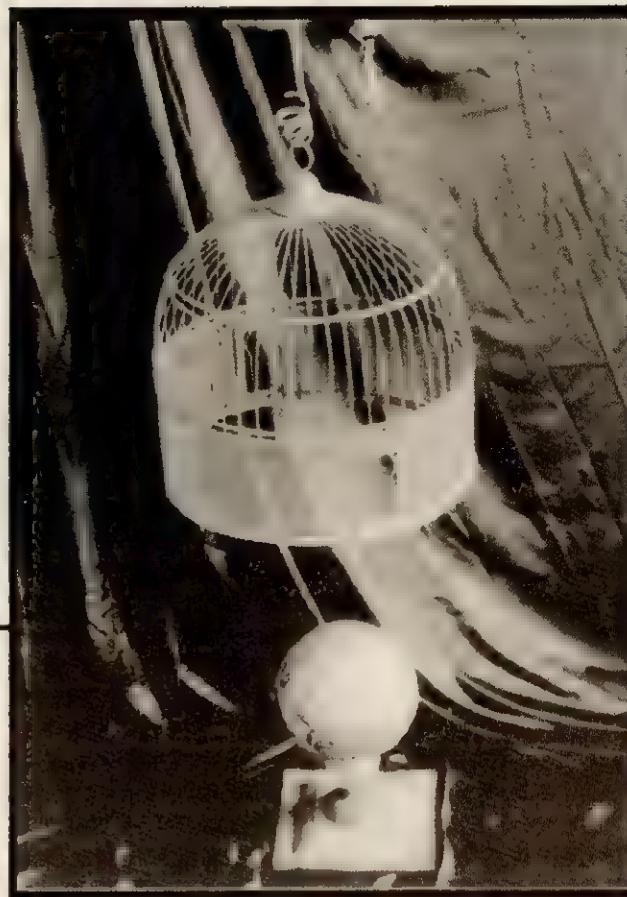
Volunteer evenings or on special projects with staff and guests of **Northampton's Shelter for Homeless Adults**. For more information call Priscilla Drucker at 586-6001 or 584-7329.

OUTDOORS

Arcadia Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary (584-3009) will have a **Project Learning Tree Certification Workshop** on January 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Project Learning Tree is an environmental education program for those working with students in grades K - 8. Pre registration is due by December 30.

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment (256-6006) will present a lecture with Long Distance Backpacker and Photographer Nancy Schroeder entitled "Mexico to Yosemite — Solo Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail," on January 12 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Cross-Country Ski Fest '95 an assortment of



Visual Harmony

Nature and Culture/Harmony or

Conflict, a national, juried exhibition comprised of twenty-eight artists from around the country will be on display at the Nacul Center Gallery in Amherst from January 2 through February 26. The exhibition represents just one facet of the Nacul Center for Ecological Architecture's emphasis on building and living in harmony with nature. Nature and culture are represented visually, either in harmony or conflict. The art will include two dimensional, three dimensional, and installation pieces. The opening reception will be from 3 to 5 p.m. on January 2. Call 256-8025 for more information

— Melinda Webber

skiing events, will take place at the **Swift River Inn** in Cummington. Call (413) 634-5751 for information. Date TBA

The Amherst Astronomy Association conducts public observatory observing at 9 p.m. every clear Saturday in December at the Amherst College Wilder Observatory. Call 256-6234

PERFORMANCES

Moonlight and Morning Star will perform at the Black Sheep in Amherst on January 7 at 8 p.m. For more information call 585-9141.

StageWest performs three tales by the Brothers Grimm **Little Red Cap, Bremen Town Musicians, and The Tailor and the Shoemaker**. The special 1 p.m. matinee shows run on the weekends between January 7 - 22. Call 781-4470 for more information.

The Moscow Ballet will perform **The Nutcracker** December 28 - 31 at the Paramount Theater in Springfield. For more information call (203) 669-4446.

The **Great Radio City Music Hall Spectacular** featuring the **Rockettes**, will appear at the Bushnell in Hartford for eight performances, January 3 - 5. Show times are evenings at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call (203) 527-3123 for more information.

One Journey, a five-woman acoustic musical group will perform a cappella and more for a benefit concert for the Brookfield Farm on December 10, 8 - 11 p.m. at the Black Sheep Café in Amherst. Call 256-0679 for more information.

POETRY/PROSE

Two national **poetry contests** with substantial cash prizes are open to area poets. The Free Poetry Contest has a January 1, 1995 deadline; call Dr. Carolyn Vanderbilt (310) 572-6616 for more information.

Open poetry readings at the Black Sheep Café in Amherst take place on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Call host Ted Melnechuk for details at 256-4650.

Amherst Writers and Artists certified workshop leader **Patricia Lewis Sackrey** offers Saturday writing retreats at her mountain home in Westhampton. For further information, call Patricia at (413) 527-5819.

Submissions wanted for the new Valley literary magazine. Short stories, poems, black and white drawings (copies only) to P.O. Box 540, Hadley, MA 01038. Include SASE for response.

The Odyssey Bookshop on the Village Commons in South Hadley will hold a **reading with Madeline Blais** on December 30 at 7:30 p.m. Call 534-7307 for more information.

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news • of • the **WTF** *by Chuck Shepherd*

LEAD STORIES

According to the prosecutor, a 22-year-old Cincinnati woman who accused a bus driver in June of raping her actually consented to the sex, or, at least, two of her ten multiple personalities did. The woman told police that all ten witnessed the attack, including a four-year-old and a ninja warrior, and the bus driver's lawyer was granted up to three opportunities in pretrial depositions to meet as many of the personalities as he can. And in Prince William County, Va., Edward B. Kelly, 44, is scheduled for trial in February (in the same court that heard the Bobbitt cases) for binding and raping a woman he met in a therapy group for people with multiple personalities. However, Kelly said the sex was consensual between one of his personalities and one of the woman's.

Among the Republicans swept into office in November was Steve Mansfield, elected to Texas' highest court that handles criminal appeals. Among Mansfield's pre-election lies or exaggerations (freely admitted in a post-election interview in the publication *Texas Lawyer*) were his claim of vast criminal-court experience (he is an insurance and tax lawyer), that he was born in Texas (actually, Massachusetts), that he dated a woman "who died" (she is still alive), and that he had "appeared" in courts in Illinois

(never) and Florida (advised a friend of his, but not as a lawyer). During the interview, Mansfield said that he lived in Houston as a kid, but when the reporter asked him if that was a lie, Mansfield reluctantly admitted it was. Mansfield called those and other instances "puffery" and "exaggerations," and said he would stop doing that now that he is one of the highest-ranking judges in Texas.

THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

In June, the Central Park Zoo revealed that it had paid an animal behaviorist \$25,000 for psychotherapy for Gus, its 9-year-old polar bear, who was involved in various repetitive behaviors, which the zoo director said could have been a mild neurosis. The behaviorist recommended creating games to make Gus' life less monotonous.

On a sanctuary island off the coast of Mauritius, England's Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust has run breeding programs for seriously endangered species, including the extremely rare Mauritius kestrel falcon and the equally rare Mauritius pink pigeon. In October, the trust announced that one of the falcons had swooped down and eaten one of the pigeons.

Among the latest animal inheritances: In January, Anna Morgan of Seattle left

an estate valued at \$500,000 to Tinker, her eleven-year-old Turkish Angora cat; Morgan's apartment will be maintained, and a live-in caretaker hired, purely for Tinker's benefit. And in August in Santa Ana, Calif., the executor of LaVerne Wheeler's \$2.1 million estate announced that Wheeler's two brothers would receive only \$25,000 each, much to their chagrin, but that the Santa Ana Police Department K-9 Corps would receive \$612,000.

In June, the *Brookfield (Mo.) News Bulletin* reported that three cows at the University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center near Linneus, Mo., have been surgically equipped with removable "portholes" so that researchers can ascertain what the cows have eaten. Twice a week, animal science students reach into the cows' stomachs, remove the contents, send the cows out to graze, and then recheck the stomachs' contents when the cows return. According to one student, the cows don't seem to mind the procedure. "They just stand there and ignore us."

JUST CAN'T STOP MYSELF

In Belleville, Ill., in September, James Dowdy, 23, was sentenced to three years in prison after being arrested carrying a bag of stolen socks. He was at the time on

probation for another sock theft and has never been accused of stealing anything except socks.

To help cleanse himself from a 1993 vandalism episode, Robert D. Pollard Jr. wrote his community an "apology from the heart," published in the *Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal*. Writing that he was "really and truly sorry," he went on for several paragraphs about the "great change" in his life because of Jesus, who "has really shown me that he is the only way out." The *Journal* published the letter on March 7, 1994. Elsewhere in that edition was a news story reporting that police had charged Pollard on March 6 with punching his wife in the face with his fist.

In October in Jacksonville, Fla., Wesley (Pop) Honeywood, 94, was given a seven-year prison sentence on a charge of aggravated assault for pulling a gun on a man who had yelled at him. During his life, Honeywood has been charged with 46 crimes; in the last few years, prosecutors and judges have been lenient with him because of his age, including giving him probation on a charge at age 92 of having sex with a seven-year-old girl. Honeywood's lawyer said her client preferred jail to a nursing home.

Betty Lou Blair, 48, was arrested in October after holding Knoxville, Tenn., police at bay with a shotgun for more than

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

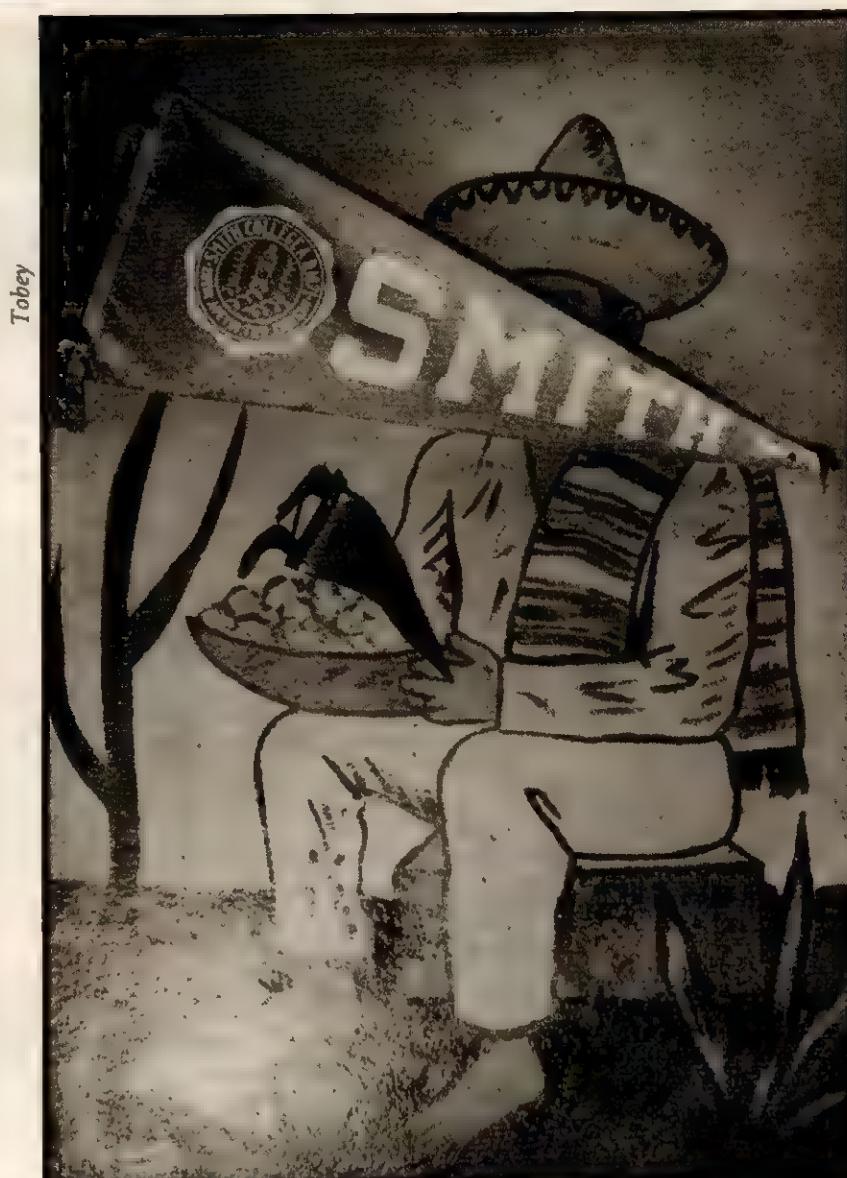
anhour. Over the last twelve years, Blair has been arrested 425 times, mostly for behaviors induced by alcohol consumption, such as disturbing the peace, indecent exposure, and urinating in public.

PERVERSIONS ON PARADE

Within a three-month period this year, the heads of both Arkansas State University and the Arkansas School for the Blind left their jobs because of scandals. In April, ASU president John Mangieri was fired after his two secretaries testified that they had seen him masturbating in his office. (Mangieri denied the charge and produced three doctors' letters stating that a medical condition had destroyed his sex drive.) In June, ASB superintendent Leonard Ogburn resigned after allegedly spanking a female teacher as part of a job evaluation.

In October at the annual Living in Leather convention in Toronto, Canadian entrepreneur Cam Ferry unveiled a "portable dungeon" at \$1,450 (Canadian) to sell in his local S&M store, Binding Leather. Its 4-by-8-foot base holds four detachable posts and two stocks, with snug holes for head, hands, and feet. In the center is a seesaw.

In September, Tucson, Ariz., police arrested a 41-year-old man who a witness said appeared to be trying to coax horses from the University of Arizona Agricultural Center toward him with food, which he was holding near his exposed penis as if to invite oral sex. Police had warned the man in June against similar behavior. Also in September, in Warren, Ohio, a 31-year-old employee of the county's Sanitary Engineering Department was suspended for five days for sexually fondling a dog while on duty.



CORRECTION

In October, I reported that two men had been arrested in Tavares, Fla., in the back of a van in a public park, charged with committing an unnatural and lascivious act, but

that their explanation was that they were merely examining and discussing the penile implant that one of them had just gotten. I reported that story under the caption "I Don't Think So." However, in November,

a jury believed their story and acquitted the men.

DODSI

In September, a judge in Santa Ana, Calif., suspended a murder trial for one day so that a juror could get medical help after she mistook nail adhesive for contact lens cleaner and glued her eye shut during a recess.

In July, an Army National Guard unit on maneuvers near Grayling, Mich., miscalculated in firing a 105mm artillery shell, and instead of providing tactical cover for troops, blasted the yard of Robert and Joan Hutton in a subdivision in the next county, sending shrapnel and smoke through the house.

The Times (London) reported in August that a woman was taken to Wexham Park Hospital in Berkshire after falling from a tree in a park just a few hundred meters from Windsor Castle. According to rangers at the Windsor Great Park, she fell out of the tree, naked, during a lovemaking session with her boyfriend.

In April, runner Mauro Prosperi took a wrong turn and got lost in the desert between Morocco and Algeria during the Des Sables marathon. He was missing for nine days. And in August, Tobago marathoner Michael Alexander, out for a practice run in Burbank, Calif., took a wrong turn and was missing for 13 hours in the San Fernando Valley. During that time, he jogged four miles illegally on the Ventura Freeway and called a relative in Tobago to ask for help.

Paul D. Kimball, 25, was charged with sexual assault in Ogden, Utah, in August. Even though he escaped, he was identified by the woman he allegedly assaulted because

continued on next page

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

he left her house without his pants, which contained his wallet.

During a spirited onstage sword fight during a September performance of the opera *The Vagabond King* in Denver, one of the swords broke off, flew through the air, and severed the bow of a violinist in the orchestra. Opera officials were considering stringing a net over the orchestra pit for protection.

Among recent truck spills: In Adams County, Colo., in May, 200 tons of carpet-tacking strips with nails; near Remington, Va., in September, 20 tons of jalapeno pepper powder. And in February, in Michigan, a 30-ton, 2,400-square-foot house being driven across largely frozen Lake Walloon, fell through the ice.

WEIRD SCIENCE

In September, the makers of Michelin tires said they would reformulate a substance used to make new-model tires grip the road better on wet pavement because the old formula permitted a buildup of static electricity. For months, attendants on the Illinois Tollway had reported taking measures to insulate themselves every time new Honda Accords (which feature the new Michelin tires) stopped to pay tolls. Some attendants even refused to accept money from some drivers for fear of shocks.

According to a September issue of *American Medical News*, physicians at the Medical College of Georgia and engineers at Georgia Tech are working to develop a synthetic finger to enable a person in one site to be touched and a doctor at another site to feel exactly what would be felt if the doctor were touching him in person.

At a June open house, officials at the Sandia National Laboratories demonstrated its latest law enforcement technology,

including strobe lights that make criminals disoriented and nauseous (but Sandia has not yet perfected eye shields to immunize police officers from the light), a receiver inside an officer's gun so he can disable it if a criminal steals it, and a gun that shoots out a goo so sticky (actually developed by a guy named Tom Goolsby) that it completely immobilizes the target.

In November, the Netherlands Liver and Intestine Foundation, which supports research on digestive problems, announced a publicity campaign to encourage people to pass gas as much as fifteen times a day to ease intestinal discomfort.

LEAST COMPETENT PERSON

In July in Kirkland, Wash., a 30-year-old man on a motorcycle, who said he wanted to test a radar sign that measures how fast vehicles approaching it are traveling, rode to the end of the street, turned around, gunned his engine, and raced toward the sign, which he watched rise to 59 mph. However, the man then smashed into the sign; he was taken to Evergreen Hospital Medical Center with numerous cuts and bruises.

I DON'T THINK SO

In November, a jury in Taos, N.M., deadlocked for a second time in five months on a charge of vehicular homicide against Gordon House, 35. In December 1992, according to police investigators, House drank at least 17 beers and then, driving 89.9 mph the wrong way on an interstate highway near Albuquerque, rammed another car, killing a woman and her three young daughters. House denied he was drunk and said he was not responsible in that he had a severe migraine headache at the time.★

— Universal Press Syndicate

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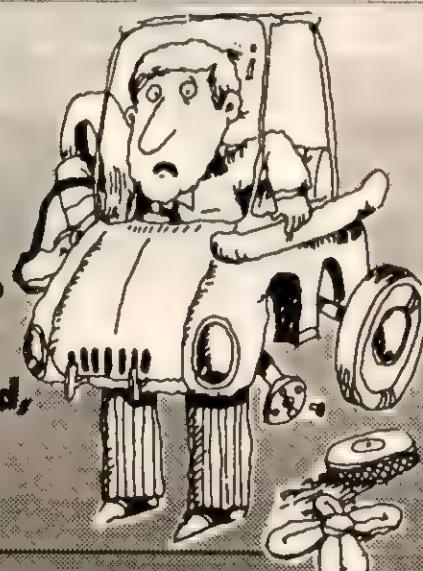
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PELHAM 4 bedroom, 2 bath home in excellent condition. Set high on a knoll overlooking a private pond. 1.5 acres of country privacy. 2 car garage. New finished hardwood floors. Walkout lower level with recreation room. Economical oil heat. \$192,000

SHUTESBURY Large Cape. Great design. Needs TLC and some finish work. A real gem in the rough. 22+/- acres for privacy, animals. Only minutes to Amherst. Oil heat. Don't miss this opportunity because it won't last. \$169,900

LEVERETT Delight to the eyes! View & setting! You can see superb quality throughout this picturesque home. Mahogany trim and built-ins are just a few of the custom features you won't want to miss! Well worth a phone call! \$309,000 (A663)

AMHERST A touch of the 18th century. Walk around your double-sided fireplace from the kitchen the living room on newly stained wide-pine boards. Magnificent old Post & Beam construction. A wonderful place to start your new life in your cozy home. Newly painted. \$99,900

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AMHERST Park-like setting just minutes to downtown! If you enjoy the outdoors but like the convenience of being near the center of town, this home is for you. Set on over a wooded acre of land, it offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces — great for in-home office. \$189,900 (A490)

SOUTH AMHERST Almost FIVE acres with large home. Antique cape dates to 1700's and was once a schoolhouse. Newer wiring, cathedral ceiling in living room. Private legal efficiency apartment. Great for extended family. At foot of Mt. Holyoke Range. Only 35 minutes to Springfield. \$184,900 (A535)

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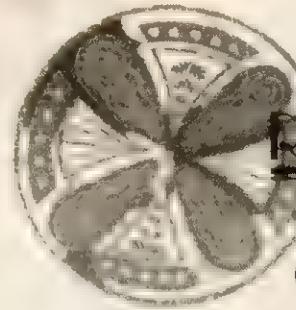
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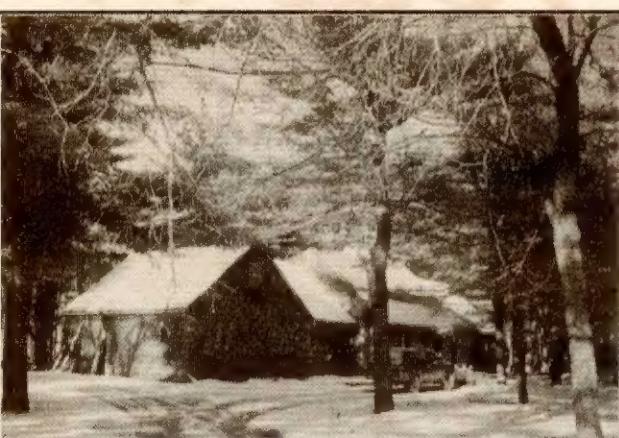
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AMHERST Attractive, newly renovated Ranch. Beautiful hardwood floors, fireplace, oil heat, new kitchen. Located in a nice neighborhood on a dead-end street within walking distance to UMass. Ideal for young family or couple. Economical living at its best. **\$142,900** (A908)



4 bedroom, 2 bath home in excellent condition. Set high on a knoll overlooking a private pond. 1.5 acres of country privacy. 2 car garage. New finished hardwood floors. Walkout lower level with recreation room. Economical oil heat. **PELHAM \$192,000** (A807)



Large Cape. Great design. Needs TLC and some finish work. A real gem in the rough. 22+/- acres for privacy, animals. Only minutes to Amherst. Oil heat. Don't miss this opportunity because it won't last. **SHUTESBURY \$169,900** (A963)



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Sitting by the fireplace on the cozy oak floors roasting chestnuts, you can enjoy the light and the fragrances from your kitchen, and hear the laughter of children in the private backyard. Keep toasty warm with the oil heat. **BELCHERTOWN \$107,000** (A965)



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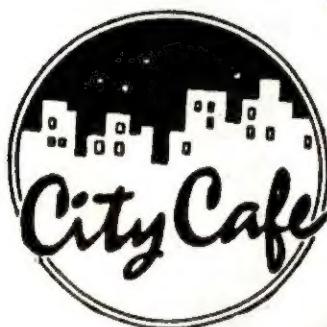
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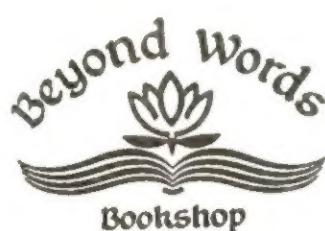
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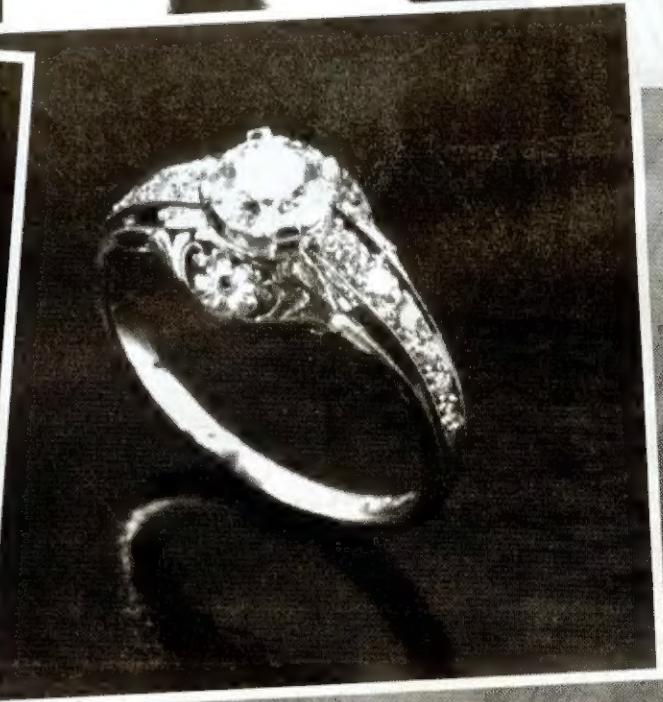
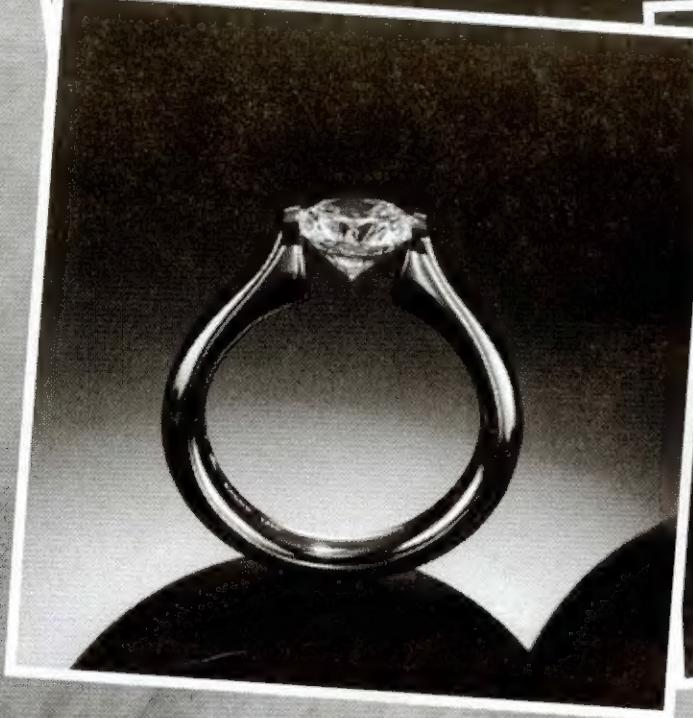
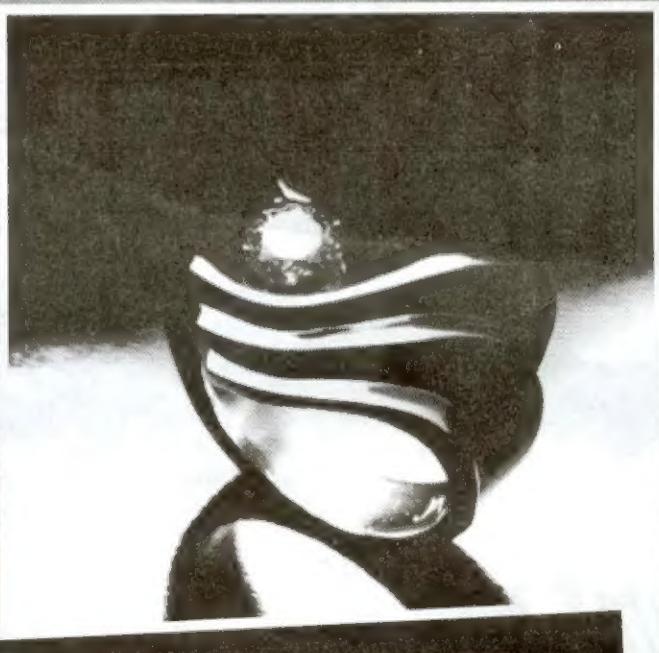
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